

Prepare for the worst, says prince

# Britain seeking ammunition for long Gulf war

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister is expected to use his visit to British troops early next month to prepare them for a war that the government now sees as almost inevitable. Military chiefs in the Gulf believe a conflict could last for months and have appealed to Britain's allies for extra ammunition.

The Prince of Wales also acknowledged the real danger of war in an interview on French television when he said: "One must always be ready or prepared for the worst."

The prince, who returned home from the Gulf last night, said: "Each time it seems we are up against a problem caused by a dictator who has supreme authority in his country."

The possibility of war was more real when dealing with dictators, he said. "It is much more difficult for democracies to wage war against each other than against a country where a leader is all-powerful and must justify his existence by drawing the population's attention to external problems unrelated to national realities. We are, in fact, obliged to pay

a ransom so that common-sense prevails."

The prince said yesterday that the British troops he had met in Saudi Arabia were "highly professional and incredibly well-prepared."

The Americans see no sign of President Saddam planning a withdrawal. Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, said in Cairo yesterday: "The clock is ticking as each day goes by and he does not begin the withdrawal of his forces."

Mr Major returned from his visit to President Bush in Washington sharing American frustration at President Saddam's apparent failure to accept that the allies meant what they said about retaking Kuwait by force if he did not withdraw voluntarily and completely by the United Nations' January 15 deadline.

Iraq has repeatedly insisted that it has no intention of pulling out and has threatened to attack British and American interests all over the world if force were used against it. Bernie Grant, the Labour MP for Tottenham, who has spent six days in Iraq said yesterday: "If the Iraqis are attacked by Americans and other forces, they have told me that they can promise that the war will not be confined to the Middle East but that American and British interests anywhere in the world will be attacked."

American troops will be on high alert over the Christmas holiday amid fears that Iraq might make a surprise attack on Egypt and Syria, said an Israeli diplomat from Yom Kippur in 1973.

Mr Bush and James Baker, the American Secretary of State, while still hoping for a peaceful outcome in Kuwait, have been particularly angered by what they and Mr Major regard as "game-playing" by President Saddam in his refusal to agree dates for Mr Baker to visit Baghdad.

Mr Major emphasised while in Washington that any such meeting would not be for negotiations but to underline the seriousness of the allies' intent. On his way home, he told reporters: "I have no doubt whatever about the ultimate commitment to force."

Mr Major feels sanctions have been allowed long enough to work, given the way Iraqi forces are dismantling Kuwait day by day and turning the country into a virtual prison camp. He says: "If Saddam Hussein does not withdraw voluntarily he will

have to be made to withdraw involuntarily."

Clearly there is a psychological battle going on. To achieve a peaceful settlement, the UN allies have to persuade President Saddam that they do mean business about using force. But those in Washington who heard Mr Major's repeating the British readiness to use force to eject Iraq from Kuwait, and that partial withdrawal would not be enough, believed they were the words of a prime minister who had prepared himself for a war.

Officials believe that the prime minister will have to prepare the troops to face up to expectations that any conflict will not be a case of a "five-day war". However, he said in an interview on BBC Radio Four's *The World This Week*: "I don't think it would be too lengthy an operation."

American generals have promised a short, sharp conflict and Whitehall advisers have said it could take four to six weeks to defeat the Iraqis. But the reassessment of ammunition needs is based on the view of commanders in the Gulf who acknowledge that a war could continue for up to six months.

In that case, the Royal Ordnance shell factories could not keep up with the demand and an appeal for extra supplies was made to allies who have not supplied ground forces to the Gulf. To the evident dismay of British officials, countries that responded failed to offer ammunition free of charge.

Britain plans to have 60,000 tons of ammunition in the field by the time the 1st Armoured Division, consisting of the 7th Armoured Brigade and the 4th Armoured Brigade, is ready for combat. The main demand will come Continued on page 18, col 4

Iraqi threat, page 5



Christmas harmony: boys of the Westminster Cathedral Choir School rehearse for tonight's midnight mass, their highpoint of the year. From the left: Francis Gilbert, aged 11, Alec McCluskey, aged 9, and Peter Kiarross, aged 11

## Families take to road for Christmas

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

MILD weather and the harsh realities of the deepening economic recession combined yesterday to keep families on the road rather than in the air as they set off to join relatives and friends for Christmas.

While puzzled airline staff were wondering what had happened to the predicted rush of domestic air passengers, motorists were packed bumper to bumper in conditions not unlike an August bank holiday.

Thousands of families, especially those living in London, appear to have waited until they knew what road conditions to expect before deciding whether to go by road or by air to visit relatives living in other parts of the country. When it became clear that they were unlikely to run into ice or snow, the prospect of driving to their destination and saving the high cost of an air fare began to look much more attractive.

This is true, however, led to traffic jams in many areas. "The whole of London appears to be heading out of the capital," said AA roadwatch in mid afternoon. "Northamptonshire is at a virtual standstill, there are seven-mile queues on the M25 near the Dartford tunnel, large parts of the M1 are extremely congested as is the M3, the A33 Winchester by-pass and sections of the M25 in Surrey. It's all due to the sheer volume of traffic as people try to reach their destinations before dark."

By yesterday evening some of the worst jams had eased, though traffic, which had come to a standstill earlier on the M1, was still slow moving through Northamptonshire, while parts of the M25, especially in Surrey, were also solid. On the M6 in Cheshire a pile-up involving 25 cars near Sandbach blocked all three north-bound carriageways. But British Airways Continued on page 18, col 1



The Prince of Wales on his Gulf visit yesterday

## Israel under strain as Soviet Jews pour in

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

MORE than 7,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants arrived in Israel in the four days up to yesterday, and officials predicted that the new wave of immigration would continue at a high pace into 1991.

There were times over the weekend, when every available El Al jet was pressed into service, that Soviet immigrants were arriving at a rate of 100 an hour.

But because officials did not arrive to process them on Saturday, the Jewish sabbath, many were put into temporary hotels until their papers could be handled this week. Uri

Gordon, the head of the immigration department of the Jewish Agency, which helps the newcomers, called on the government to declare a state of emergency to cope with the immigrants, whose arrival is creating housing and job shortages.

"We have to... create a new set of priorities," he said. "We should immediately freeze housing prices, and each one in Israeli society will personally have to help." His chief, Simcha Diniz, predicted that Soviet Jewish arrivals could increase to as many as 1,500 a day.

## Moscow pig's lean time on the way to market

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THERE is no Russian equivalent of the English rhyme "This little pig went to market" - which is just as well because it took a reporter on a Soviet daily paper half a page to tell the tale of how his little pig finally made it to the market slab. He discovered that monopoly capitalism is already alive and well, and certainly the monopoly bit.

Sergei Blagodarov set out to discover why, amid all the talk of hunger and empty butcher's shelves, there is plenty of meat at the peasants' markets, all of it on sale at prohibitive prices. He bought himself a freshly slaughtered pig from his local farm and drove to central Moscow.

In the past year the price of meat at most of the capital's peasants' mar-

kets has doubled, from 15 to 30 roubles (£30 at the official exchange rate) a kilo (2.2lb) and even higher. One kilo now costs a Moscow worker nearly half his weekly wage. The state price would be one-tenth of the market price, but as every Muscovite knows, there is luck or graft involved in buying state-subsidised meat, so it is 30 roubles or nothing.

It may be a seller's market, but there are sellers and buyers. Mr Blagodarov was not one of the chosen. He tried 16 of the 33 Moscow markets before finding a stall where he was allowed to offer his pig for sale. "No one wanted any more meat. They have developed a mechanism to prevent strangers setting up shop and possibly beating down the prices."

At the most favoured markets, near the centre of town or in suburbs with

diplomatic residences where people will sometimes even pay dollars for meat, the lists of would-be sellers were full until the spring. At a market in a working class district the next day a crowd of peasants was hustling for a place as early as 6am. Mr Blagodarov was advised to "have a word with the butcher". A 25-rouble note secured the offer of a place after lunch.

In another district, the peasants arrived the evening before and queued all night to take the first 16 places. No one else got a look in.

Mr Blagodarov ascertained that the key person at each market was the butcher. He, or she, would openly collect bribes from the would-be sellers. Further up the tree - to the director of the market - the bribery was behind closed doors. The butchers made their money by demanding a

fee to joint the meat - plus a bit extra. At Moscow's central market, the going rate is 40 roubles per pig - and the butcher joints about 100 a day.

They sell locally to the state for 6 roubles a kilo. The best cuts are then sold on by the head of the depot for 12 roubles to friends.

The "friends" then take the meat to market. Having greased the right palms liberally in advance, they occupy the best places in the meat section and set the prices.

Mr Blagodarov and his pig finally arrived at Rizhsky market, a notorious den of black-market dealers. Using his newly acquired expertise, he asked at once for "the boss", paid a "crazy" bribe, and was allocated a slab in the egg section. The egg department head also had to be paid off "to shut her up" - and the butcher for the jointing.

## Yeltsin is confident of Gorbachev concessions

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev today faces a supreme test of his negotiating skill as he tries to enhance his own power while setting out the terms for a reformed Soviet federation.

Boris Yeltsin, the Russian federation president, was confident at the weekend that he would get concessions from the Soviet leader on the key issue of how much freedom of action the republics would get under a new Union treaty.

He told *Trud* newspaper that a resolution spelling out the shape of the Union, to be presented to the Congress of People's Deputies or supreme legislature soon after it reconvenes today, would "take into account the sovereignty of the republics". Mr Yeltsin, who last week distanced himself from Mr Gorbachev's ideas for a new federation, said he was sure that "a Union treaty will be signed... Russia will hand over to the Union some of its functions, while allowing no interference in the remainder of its affairs."

The prospect of a Yeltsin-Gorbachev compromise over a new federal structure raised the chances that the Russian leader would drop his objections to enhanced powers for

the Soviet president. Last week, Mr Yeltsin expressed fears that the head of state's new prerogatives would be greater than those of Brezhnev or Stalin.

However, Mr Gorbachev was still expected to face daunting procedural problems in forcing the constitutional changes through a congress at which they supposedly require the support of 1,500 of the 2,250 members. Even if the rules are changed so that only two-thirds of those present must support constitutional amendments, voting could be finely balanced.

Outgoing prime minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who has criticised the new institutions as "unwieldy and unworkable" said at the weekend that it would be a "serious political defeat" for Mr Gorbachev if he fails to get the changes through.

Supporters of Mr Yeltsin continued yesterday to express their shock at the harsh, conspiratorial tone adopted in Saturday's speech to the congress by KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, who criticised foreign intelligence services for undermining the Soviet Union. He slightly softened the xenophobic tone of his

arguments in remarks published by Tass, the Soviet news agency, yesterday, making a distinction between Western intelligence agencies and the governments they served.

"I was speaking about specific forces, not about the policy of the US administration, or say, the British government," he said, elaborating on his assertion that efforts to "destabilise" the Soviet state had intensified. In his speech, Mr Kryuchkov said that more than 20 private armies were operating in the Soviet Union.

John Major is likely to make his first visit to Moscow as prime minister soon after the mid-February summit between President Bush and Mr Gorbachev. It is thought that he will continue the support Margaret Thatcher gave the Soviet leader, but may show more caution.

Major's visit, page 6  
Baltic fears, page 6

## BOXING DAY

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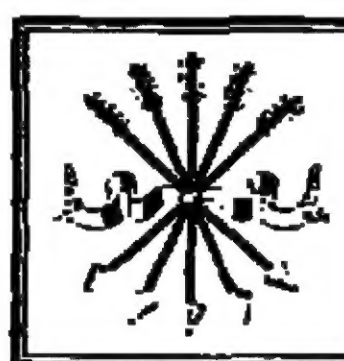
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Geoff Brown on the new films, Jeremy Kingston on holiday shows for the children and Benedict Nightingale on the best of theatre, 1990



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INDEX	
Arts	13, 14
Births, marriages, deaths	11
Business	19-21
Court & social	10
Crosswords	12, 18, 22
Leading articles	9
Letters	9
Obituaries	10
Sport	22-28
TV & radio	15-17
Weather	18



## Soaring bills for family celebrations

By ROBIN YOUNG

IT WILL cost the average family almost twice as much to celebrate Christmas this year as it did in 1979, and £72.88 more than it did in 1980, according to an index of the cost of Christmas devised by Lady Oppenheim-Barnes, a former minister of consumer affairs and chairman of the National Consumer Council.

As Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Conservative MP for Gloucester, she first calculated the figures, based on what was claimed to be a comprehensive shopping list for an average family with two children, in 1977.

She said that year's bill, totalling £60.60p, showed that under a Labour government the cost of Christmas had doubled in four

years. She calculated that the same items would have cost only £34.89p in 1973. The Times recalculated the cost of the same shopping list in 1979, when it totalled £81.43p, and in 1980, when it reached £89.53. This year the total is £162.41, almost twice the 1979 figure.

It cannot be claimed that the Oppenheim index is entirely scientific or reliable. There has to be some question as to how representative a family it is which consumes three bottles of spirits to every pint of beer, and which sends its Christmas cards by first class post.

The original list was not specific about which brands were priced, or where the prices were

collected. The Times, in recalculating the index in 1979 and since, has revisited the same north London store and assumed that it referred to leading brands (including own-label products where available) from a major supermarket chain.

The biggest difficulty arises over the price of toys and games. Almost all those priced in 1979 and 1980 are no longer on the market, and it is possible that the substitutes priced instead would not satisfy the expectations of the child of the 1990s. By shopping around on market stalls, going to discount traders for toys, buying cheaper cards, crackers and chocolates, and buying non-French brandy instead of cognac, it the

bill could be cut by about £25.

The only item in the list which is cheaper in 1990 than it was in 1979 or 1980 is the half-pound of assorted nuts, which has plummeted in price from 99p at the beginning of the decade to only 49p now. This appears to be due to the introduction of pick'n'mix arrangements for loose nuts at the store we visited.

For the record, whatever their deficiencies, the figures are given in the accompanying table.

Thousands of cheap French frozen turkeys are being dumped on the British market. They are about 20 per cent cheaper than home-produced birds.

What price true love, page 12

### THE RISING COST OF CHRISTMAS

	1979	1980	1990
Turkey, 15lb, fresh	£11.06	£10.92	£16.20
Six mince pies	49p	33p	65p
Christmas pudding, 1½lb	£1.68	£1.68	£2.99
Christmas cake, 40oz	£2.84	£4.35	£5.95
Brussels sprouts	32p	33p	54p
Potatoes, 3lb	34p	21p	38p
Chocolates, ½lb	94p	99p	£2.10
Assorted nuts, ½lb	99p	49p	49p
Christmas tree, 5ft	£5.00	£6.00	£15.00
Tree lights	£4.99	£4.99	£7.99
Timed	£1.68	£1.68	£3.39
Christmas crackers	£2.79	£2.95	£5.99
Bottle of gin	£4.49	£5.14	£7.29
Bottle of whisky	£4.69	£5.58	£8.29
Bottle of brandy	£5.99	£7.95	£10.25
Beer	52p	58p	66p
24 Christmas cards	£2.40	£2.88	£4.80
5 sheets wrapping paper	50p	55p	£1.50
Postage, first class x 24	£2.40	£2.58	£3.28
Toys and games	£22.40	£23.70	£52.58
Parcel post, 4 x 2kg	£3.96	£4.84	£10.08
Total	£81.43p	£89.53	£162.41

## Stores defy courts and make most of Sunday trade

By PETER VICTOR

ABOUT 15,000 stores nationwide opened for business yesterday in defiance of High Court rulings against Sunday trading.

Retailers affected by recession hoped to boost takings by encouraging shoppers to make final purchases on the last Sunday before Christmas. They were perhaps heartened by John Major's comments last week in which he described a great deal of Sunday trading legislation as bizarre and indicated he would welcome a change in the law on shop times.

Shopping reform campaigners estimated that 15,000 stores were open across England and Wales, many doing brisk business, compared with 25,000 shops which opened the previous Sunday.

The Keep Sunday Special campaign dismissed the figure as propaganda. The campaign said it had been inundated with complaints from chain store staff under "intolerable pressure" to work on Sundays. Last night David Blackmore, the campaign's operations director, said the group would be writing to Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister, asking to be fully involved in any talks on Sunday trading.

Roger Boaden, director of the Shopping Hours Reform Council, however, said that the majority of shop staff working yesterday were volunteers, many on premium pay rates. "The retailers say staff who

do not want to be there are no good for customer relations," he said.

In areas where local authorities had indicated they would prosecute stores which opened, trading standards officers were monitoring which stores were flouting Sunday trading rules. In Southampton, the managers of four jewellers shops — Ratners, H Samuel, Zales and Ernest Jones — were warned that they might be in breach of the Shops Act after a council officer bought goods on their premises.

Notwithstanding the presence of the officers in Bristol, hundreds of shoppers visited stores to pick up last-minute essentials. Many shop assistants said they welcomed the offer of double pay for working on a Sunday.

Stores making the most of Sunday trading included BHS, Blazer, B & Q, Ratners, HMV, H Samuel, Superdrug and Halfords. Robina Cowan, of BHS, said her store was offering non-alcoholic punch as an incentive to shoppers.

In Sheffield more than a dozen stores opened for business. Portsmouth was similar with BHS, Halfords, H Samuel and Ratner's all open between 10am and 5pm. Stores in London's West End reported a late surge of shoppers looking for last-minute gifts.

B&Q, the do-it-yourself chain claimed last night to have discovered a loophole in the law. The company argued that a writ sought by the local authority in Chelmsford, Essex, applies only to retail sales. For the first time yesterday, it opened one of its stores for trade customers only. Customers with proof of operating a business were issued with on-the-spot ID cards enabling them to shop freely at the Chelmer Village store.

David Ramsden, group retail services manager, said: "The prohibition on Sunday trading only applies to retail sales and our new concept store at Chelmsford is aimed heavily at the tradesman, the self-employed carpenter, joiner, plumber or decorator."

The company invited trading standards officers to visit the Chelmsford store yesterday but the offer was not taken up.

Bernard Levin, page 8  
Leading article, page 9  
Letters, page 9

## Last-minute shoppers head for France

By RAY CLANCY AND ARTHUR LEATLEY

FRENCH Sunday trading laws gave thousands of Britons the chance to catch up with last-minute Christmas shopping yesterday.

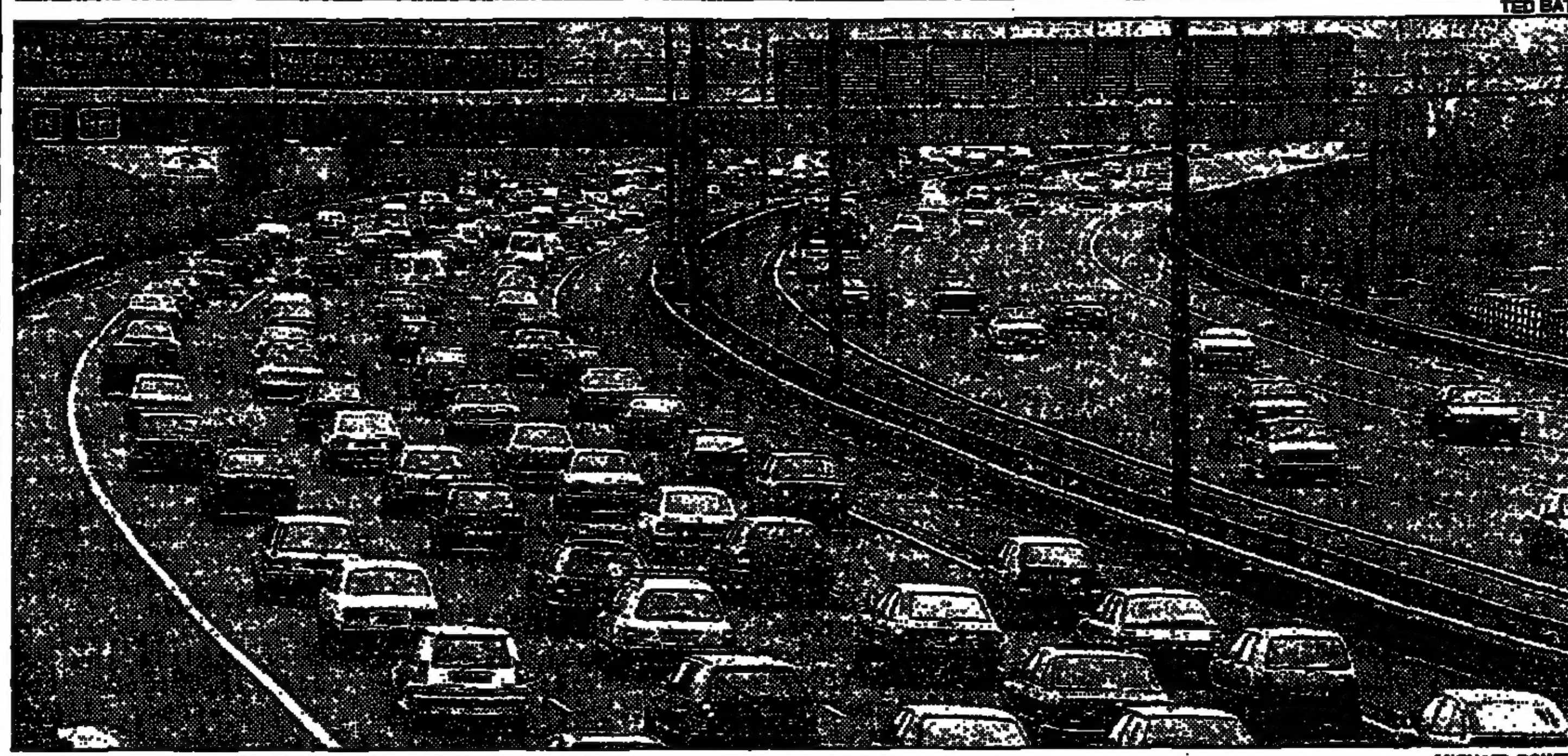
Channel ferry companies reported brisk business on day-trips to Boulogne and Calais, where hypermarkets were given permission to open. Under French law, large stores are allowed to open up to three Sundays each year, which may be extended to five Sundays next year.

Many of the supermarkets in the French Channel ports have chosen the run-up to Christmas as potentially the most lucrative time to open on Sunday. More than 100 British coaches, as well as hundreds of cars, swarmed to the Auchan supermarket in Boulogne on one Sunday earlier this month. In an effort to make the most of the last weekend's trading before Christmas, the store opened until midnight on Saturday and 9pm yesterday.

Although there were not as many British shoppers as on previous Sundays, manager Bernard Damborne said: "It is very good for our business. It would not be worthwhile to open every Sunday of the year, but many English people want to buy food and drink for Christmas. We are religious, but I don't think it is wrong to do business on a Sunday if that's what people want."

More than 100,000 passengers travelled through Dover over the weekend, making it one of the busiest weekends of the year. Although many were travelling to the Continent for holidays, the Dover Harbour Board spokesman said: "People have been making the most of France's very sensible marketing this month. We have day trips from as far as Scotland, and the Sunday opening gives people more opportunity to shop. If everyone spent £50 or so, that's a lot of money which has gone to France which might have been spent here."

Despite the economic downturn in Britain, Dover has seen a 5 per cent increase in the number of cross-channel passengers this year. Special bus services between Calais and Boulogne harbours and the out-of-town supermarkets has helped maintain the popularity of the £11 day-trip from Dover on F&E Ferries.



Christmas scenes: brisk business at a butcher's shop in Reading yesterday; an anything-but-brisk M25 around Heathrow airport; and shoppers in Regent Street waiting for Hamleys, the London toyshop, to open its doors in defiance of Sunday trading laws

## Calls for random drink tests as campaign fails

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE apparent failure of this year's Christmas campaign against drink-driving has prompted fresh calls for legislation to allow random breath tests.

In spite of a 40 per cent increase in the number of police checks and a £1 million advertising campaign by the transport department, the number of drivers failing the breath test has fallen by only 0.41 per cent.

The Campaign Against Drunk Driving (CADD) said yesterday that statistics from the Association of Chief Police Officers for the first three days of this year's campaign in England and Wales had increased the likelihood of random testing. An amendment giving police the power to carry out breath tests at any time will be tabled by Labour MPs during the committee stage of the road traffic reform bill in the new year.

Over the last year, fatal and serious injuries have risen 13 per cent, due mainly to an increase in drink-driving incidents. CADD, which represents more than 2,000 parents and relatives of victims of drunken drivers, is urging a three-year trial of random breath-testing throughout Britain, which it says would cut road deaths by up to 30 per cent and save more than £700 million in medical and legal costs each year.

John Knight, who co-founded the association after his 29-year-old son Colin was killed seven years ago by a drunk driver awaiting trial on another drink-driving charge, said the public was beginning to realise that expen-

### Drink-drive figures

	Total tests	Positive
Avon & Somerset	310 (193)	34 (10)
Cambridgeshire	475 (224)	16 (13)
Cheshire	516 (201)	31 (22)
Cleveland	228 (100)	12 (9)
Cumbria	189 (57)	18 (11)
Derbyshire	220 (89)	20 (19)
Devon & Cornwall	421 (545)	48 (35)
Dorset	215 (171)	13 (7)
Essex	1,183 (489)	38 (29)
Gloucestershire	104 (50)	17 (6)
Greater Manchester	1,882 (2,044)	128 (114)
Guernsey	374 (387)	18 (22)
Hampshire	680 (870)	65 (48)
Humbly Grove	322 (253)	32 (34)
Kent	746 (383)	41 (33)
Lancashire	801 (549)	30 (41)
Leicestershire	454 (208)	22 (15)
Merseyside	305 (44)	41 (25)
Northampton	292 (221)	27 (7)
North Wales	700 (445)	32 (18)
North Yorkshire	248 (83)	19 (27)
Nottinghamshire	580 (671)	29 (23)
South Wales	513 (197)	47 (17)
South Yorkshire	536 (268)	57 (34)
Suffolk	377 (158)	17 (11)
Surrey	448 (216)	21 (30)
Sussex	448 (285)	32 (38)
Thames Valley	1,528 (903)	65 (58)
West Yorkshire	248 (97)	22 (11)
West Midlands	305 (80)	32 (12)
West Midlands	728 (294)	85 (57)
West Yorkshire	420 (220)	79 (48)

The first column shows total of breath tests December 19-22, 1990; (1989 figures in brackets); the third column shows positive breath tests on same date

sive advertising campaigns were ineffective. "Experience in countries like Australia has shown the threat in a random-test system really does make a difference to the hard-core of drivers."

The transport department's 40-second Christmas commercial,

featuring the tearful face of a six-year-old girl whose father's driving has taken a life, is so disturbing that television executives have banned it from being screened before 9pm, when its critics claim many male drivers in the 35 to 50 target-age group will be in the pub. Special anti-drink-drive enforcement teams have backed up the advertisement with increased breath-testing by regular police patrols.

Officers from 42 forces, excluding the Metropolitan Police area, tested 19,328 drivers between last Wednesday and Saturday, compared with 13,672 over the same period last year. A total of 1,418 failed the test, a drop of 0.41 per cent.

In Derbyshire police carried out 210 breath tests over three days and found 20 drivers over the limit, compared with 19 failures out of 340 tests last year. In Humberside over two days there were 32 positive results out of 322 tests, 10 per cent fewer than last year. In Essex 81 motorists face prosecution after 2,500 tests over nine days.

Christopher Chope, the roads and traffic minister, said: "These figures show there is still a hard-core of irresponsible drivers. They also show that the police mean business."

A survey by Cranfield Institute of Technology says that many motorists will continue to flout drink-drive laws until random breath-testing is introduced. The study of 1,100 drivers found offenders thought the chance of being stopped and arrested was lower than one in a thousand.

## Hit or miss business of the seasonal song

By PETER VICTOR

AS CLIFF Richard celebrates his third successive Christmas number one record, spare a thought for Elmo and Patsy, singers of *Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer*. This hopeful chart smash "died", as they say in the record industry, and joined the songs that did not make it to number one or, in this case, even into the charts.

The arrival of Cliff Richard's latest release, *Saviour's Day*, at number one, is estimated to have cost bookmakers £50,000. It has already sold 350,000 copies. Topping the charts at Christmas ensures good sales throughout the year. As a result, songwriters tend to keep their best, and worst, for the Christmas charts.

Who can forget *There's No One Quite Like Grandma*, by St Winifred's School Choir, which

topped the singles chart in Christmas 1980? While not in the same class as Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, the idea was the same: find a song everyone will sing, buy and give as a present.

The British, however, are not particularly good at it. Alan Jones, a chart consultant to Gallup, the poll company, and *Music Week* magazine, said that home-grown Christmas songs are inclined to be whimsical rather than lyrical. "We tend to produce a lot of novelty records, many of which sink without trace. The problem is that we don't have the sort of conveyor belt, professional song writers that they do in the US."

The only really perennial Christmas song Britain has is Slade's *Merry Christmas Everybody*. The latest version of this, by The Metal Gurus, is hovering just outside the singles chart.

Following Slade's success with the song in the 1970s, bands such as Wizard and Mud, and artists such as John Lennon and Paul McCartney began to produce that style of song. It reached its peak with the Band Aid charity song *Do They Know It's Christmas?* in 1984, which was a big hit.

Apart from one-offs such as Band Aid's chart-topper, single sales are not where the real money is to be made, Mr Jones said. "This week the number one will sell 80,000 to 100,000 copies. That's nothing compared to Madonna's *Immaculate Conception* album, which will sell 300,000 this week and went quadruple platinum — 1.2 million sales — in six weeks."



Cliff Richard: third successive number one

## Councillors move to weed out town hall old guard

By KERRY GILL

LABOUR group leaders on Glasgow city council are to vet every one of the party's sitting councillors before they are allowed to stand in the next district elections.

The move, which has upset the councillors, is aimed at weeding out members considered to have already given their best, though one party executive member described them as old men and time-servers hanging on.

The party will interview the councillors — an attempt, according to Danny Crawford, the group secretary, to increase communication between the party and individual councillors.

One councillor is over 80 and six more are pensioners. The party executive member said: "There is growing concern about the number of old men hanging on. Many are recognised as simply being time-servers."

"If we do nothing, then each year the proportion of pensioners is set to get bigger. The party must address the problem and provide more opportunities for younger men and women."

In the first interviews next month councillors will be asked about their workload, their past performance and how they see their future role. Under party rules all sitting councillors automatically become election candidates, though each must face reselection by their ward parties.

Charles Davidson, aged 81, said: "I do not feel that I am treated differently because of my somewhat considerable age. Perhaps some younger members give me more respect. Respect must only be given when it is earned."

Mr Davidson did not think age necessarily brought wisdom, only experience. "People who become too old to do their jobs or represent the people must be put out to grass. When I feel that I can no longer do what I was elected to do, then I will move aside. But I have been very lucky. My health, mental and physical, is exceptional for my age."

Many more sitting councillors will become pensioners during the 1992-1996 administration. For some, being a councillor is a full-time occupation. Most Labour members rely on attendance allowances for the bulk of their income. One of them was paid £8,500 in allowances and expenses last year.

## £100 child care bonus

Channel 4, which has announced a £14 million cut in programme expenditure because of a slump in advertising, is to give working mothers with children aged under 14 £100 a month towards the cost of child care.

Michael Grade, chief executive, said yesterday that the payments and other measures to help working mothers would help the company to keep valued female employees and to attract talented women from elsewhere.

Because most of its programmes are commissioned from independent makers, almost 300 of Channel 4's 450 employees are women concerned with administration or journalism. Other incentives include one week's compassionate leave to deal with emergencies and an increase in maternity leave entitlements.

## Killed after party

Geraldine Palk, aged 27, a shipping clerk, was murdered while returning from her firm's Christmas party, yards from her home at Fairwater, Cardiff, after a desperate battle with her attacker, police said yesterday. She was last seen alive at midnight on Friday in a Cardiff city centre, and was found face down and half naked in a stream on Saturday afternoon.

## Atlantic rescue lift

An RAF Sea King helicopter was battling Atlantic gales to reach an injured woman sailor on a Russian ship 300 miles south-west of Ireland last night. Coastguards said that the woman, aged 53, had lost a lot of blood after an accident on board the 50,000-ton container vessel *Khudozhnik Takhomov*. The RAF said the rescue lift would take 20 minutes, followed by a 2½-hour flight to hospital in Cork.

## City centre attack

A murder investigation started yesterday after the death in the Cumberland infirmary, Carlisle, of Oliver Dickens, aged 67, of Orton Park, Carlisle. It followed what Cumbria police said was a serious assault in Boteberrate in the city centre earlier in the day. A man was last night helping police with their enquiries.

## Snow odds drift

The odds against a white Christmas have drifted from 14-1 to 20-1 in England and Wales, but they are offering 6-1 for snow to fall at any time during December 25 in Aberdeen or 10-1 in Glasgow. There are odds of 6-1 that Christmas Day temperatures in England will exceed the record 15.6°C registered in Kilkenny, Devon in 1896.



# Poisoning risk in home microwaves used by caterers

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

A PARLIAMENTARY enquiry into the safety of microwave ovens has received a welter of evidence indicating the threat of poisoning from food reheated by caterers using domestic appliances.

One study by a local authority showed that 55 per cent of reheated takeaway meals failed to reach the 70C throughout and although they often appeared piping hot had cold spots in the centre. One tandoori chicken leg reached only 30C in the centre.

The mounting evidence has led MPs on the Commons agriculture committee to question the power rating stated on microwaves. Their report is expected to be published early next year and is expected to demand better and more obvious details of

the wattage together with better heating and cooking times both on the ovens and on packaged food.

The MPs were particularly worried to learn that power levels may fall in household microwaves which are used virtually non-stop by caterers.

Officials from Sandwell borough council in the West Midlands recently visited 20 cafes, takeaways, fish-and-chip shops, public houses and restaurants. In addition to most of the food failing to be heated to a safe temperature of 70C for at least two minutes, they found that 90 per cent of food handlers had guessed or estimated the cooking time. Apart from the under-cooked chicken leg, reheated pies and pasties were the main items to fail the test.

Steve Tromans, the council's divisional environmental health officer, told the committee: "The department's survey substantiates concerns expressed by the Institution of Environmental Health Officers and other agencies that many food businesses are using microwave ovens not designed for the rigorous use likely in the commercial environment. Microwaves may be convenient, but they are complex machines which, if used incorrectly, may put people's health at risk."

Another survey by the institution found that more than 50 per cent of commercial premises (2,858 out of 5,622) used domestic microwaves. The agriculture ministry's research found similar figures.

The institution concluded: "Both sets of results clearly indicate that food reheated in domestic ovens for sale to the public may not reach a temperature sufficient to destroy

food poisoning organisms that may be present." The institution has been urging the ministry to take further action to stop caterers using domestic ovens.

The agriculture ministry told the committee: "Domestic ovens are not intrinsically unsafe if used for commercial purposes but the practice may give rise to problems if the ovens are used intensively for a large part of the day as they are likely to take longer to heat food adequately due to a temporary decline in power output from the magnetron."

"Domestic ovens are also generally not as robust as catering ovens and may be less likely to withstand the rigours of prolonged commercial use."

"For these reasons, though the use of domestic ovens in catering establishments need not necessarily give rise to food safety problems, the ministry has asked the institution to encourage the use of catering ovens rather than domestic models in commercial premises."

The Institute of Food Research told the committee that more work is needed to improve guidelines for oven testing, clearer instructions for reheating food and greater understanding by consumers about how to achieve uniform temperatures.

The cross-party agriculture committee received conflicting evidence about the risks of food poisoning from cook-chill meals heated by microwaves. The consumers' association Which? said that nine out of ten compact microwaves failed to reheat the food adequately.

The Food and Drink Federation dismissed the claims as ill-informed, unscientific exaggeration.

## Ex-army man defies threat of call-up



Mr Cope with his letter from the ministry

A LABOUR MP has demanded the recall of Parliament to clear up confusion over military call-up after a former army chaplain received papers warning him that he might be called up for active service in the Gulf (Alan Hamilton writes).

Trevor Cope, aged 37, a schoolteacher, from Sidmouth, Devon, married with two young children, who retired 11 years ago after nine years as a bandman in the Royal Dragoon Guards, said yesterday that he would defy any attempt to call him up. A defence ministry letter warned him that if insufficient volunteers came forward he might be required for service in the Gulf, Germany or the United Kingdom.

Similar letters have been sent to 1,500 reservists, stating that a decision on compulsory call-up will be made on December 27. Mr Cope's only combat training was as a stretcher-bearer and medical auxiliary, when he left the army he was placed on the long-term reserve list.

The recall of Parliament was urged by Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, after a constituent received provisional call-up papers.

## Runcie sends peace prayer

A MESSAGE of peace will be broadcast to forces in the Gulf today by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He will pray for their success in averting war, which he says results from "selfishness, jealousy, envy, injustice and fear" (Geoff King writes).

Dr Runcie's address will be part of an hour-long television programme, *Christmas with the Gulf*, which will enable troops to make contact with friends and family in Britain and Germany. He says: "I pray that those of you in the Gulf will be successful as a peace-keeping force."

Iraqi threat, page 5

## Super jumbo may challenge the 747

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE'S aircraft-makers are working on designs for an 800-seat "super jumbo jet" to challenge the Boeing 747.

Designed by Airbus Industrie around two existing wide-body fuselages put side-by-side, the aircraft would be able to fly for more than 7,000 miles non-stop. Research and development work would cost more than £2 billion, and proceed only if airlines showed interest in the new giant. If there is sufficient demand, however, building work could start in 1997 and the aircraft would enter service in 2002.

Jean Pierson, managing director of Airbus, said the market for very big, long-range jets is now dominated by Boeing with its 747 range, but that Airbus was poised to challenge them and had embarked on serious studies for such a project. "One such project study would have a passenger capacity of around 600 seats with the capability to stretch to as much as 800 and a range of at least 7,000 miles," he said.

"Direct operating costs would need to be significantly better than the 747 competition. Such an aircraft could, it appears, be developed from the A340. The questions that we have to consider are whether Airbus Industrie should enter this market sector and, if so,

when?" It is hoped that Rolls-Royce might supply the engines for the super jumbo, and push the British content above the 20 per cent share now held by British Aerospace.

Rolls-Royce has only recently produced an engine that could be used on Airbus jets, which have to date been powered by American equipment. It has long been the aim of Airbus to strengthen the European element by involving RR, and its latest Trent engine is seen as the perfect solution.

Airbus has had one of its most successful years ever, with almost 400 aircraft ordered by customers from around the world, and it predicts that it can win 40 per cent of the market for jets of 100 seats or more within the next few years. The company is now making a profit, and will soon start to repay loans provided by governments to help it challenge the American aircraft manufacturers.

There are hopes that the A330 twin jet and the four-engine A340, both due to make their first flight in the next two years, could become top sellers. As congestion at airports and in the skies continues, however, bigger aircraft capable of by-passing traditional refuelling stops are thought to be essential.

De Havilland doubt, page 19



The 800-seat jet could fly for 7,000 miles non-stop

## Carey says faith is lukewarm

By JAMIE DETIMER

THE Church of England has lost committed Christians to other denominations because it has been lukewarm and slack in its faith, according to the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dr George Carey believes that the church is under judgment and has lost sight of the seriousness of sin. "I sadly see men and women in leadership who are making shipwrecks of their ministries through unfaithfulness, through slackness, through lack of integrity," he says.

The comments, which indicate how different Dr Carey's style of leadership will be to his predecessor, are contained in three talks to a conference of the Anglican Renewal Movement. They were delivered before Dr Carey's elevation but tapes of the talks have recently been reissued, with his blessing, and are being used in church discussion groups throughout Britain.

Since his surprise appointment last summer, Dr Carey, who will be enthroned in Canterbury cathedral in April, has followed guidance from his advisers and has remained silent and declined nearly all requests from the press for interviews.

The talks serve as a strong indication of Dr Carey's current thinking about the poor state of the church and they show his forceful evangelical approach.

In one of the talks, Dr Carey, who is at present the Bishop of Bath and Wells, says that the standards in many churches are disgraceful. He criticises the bland theology of the Church of England.

"Dialogue with other faiths is very important, but I can respect another faith by saying 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation,'" he says.

After the tears: The Duchess of York with Princess Eugenie after the baby was christened at Sandringham during a parishioners' carol service yesterday.

The princess, who is nine months old, cried for four minutes as she was baptised by the Right Rev Peter Nott, the Bishop of Norwich, with water from the River Jordan, a tradition for Royal babies.

The younger daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York made history by becoming the first member of the royal family to be baptised in public. More than 100 estate

workers flocked to the tiny parish church of St Mary Magdalen on the Queen's Norfolk estate to join the royal family for the service. An overflow congregation had the service relayed to them. Eugenie's sister, Princess Beatrice, aged two, also attended the christening.

The Duchess of Norfolk, aged 74, was "stable" in the King Edward VII Hospital at Midhurst, West Sussex, last night after her Volvo crashed into a lamp-post. The car veered off the carriageway into the lamp-post on the A27 at Worthing.

## Major ready to fight pressure for interest cut

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE government is prepared to resist pressure for early cuts in interest rates from the CBI, the trades unions and its own backbenchers and to face up to what it believes will be short-term political unpopularity over a sharp increase in unemployment.

John Major, the prime minister, is keen to demonstrate that he can take tough decisions as well as popular ones. Mr Major, who does not want an election until inflation is sharply reduced, is determined to resist any economic soft options.

He believes that if the government can secure a reduction in inflation within the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system it will be much more long-lasting than previous reductions and he is embarking on a long-term strategy to achieve much lower levels of inflation for Britain through the 1990s. He believes that Britain is now facing its "moment of truth" within the ERM.

The man who asserted as Chancellor "If it isn't hurting, it isn't working", has told colleagues that there is no alternative to a period of pain. Those close to him believe that Mr Major now wants to demonstrate the other ele-

ment in his "tough but tender" political approach.

By the action he has taken on the poll tax, on the compensation for haemophiliacs with Aids virus and on homelessness Mr Major has demonstrated his credentials as a "caring Conservative", they say. By remaining tough now on economic questions and by demonstrating his willingness to go all the way with America in the use of force to eject Saddam Hussein from Kuwait he will show that he is prepared also to take hard decisions which could put at risk the political popularity he has enjoyed since taking over from Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Major admitted to reporters during his Washington trip that the recession was going to be worse than originally expected. A further drop in the inflation rate next month is expected to increase pressure for interest rate cuts. But the scope for manoeuvre is limited by the pound's position near the bottom of its range within the ERM and he will hear no talk of renegotiating the rate at which Britain entered.

The prime minister's target is to reach an inflation rate of 5.5 per cent by the last quarter of next year.

## Rethink on juveniles in adult jails

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, has instigated a review of government plans to prevent about 1,400 boys aged 15 and 16 from being remanded to adult jails each year (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Mr Baker fears that the £20 million the Home Office has earmarked for extending the network of council-run juvenile secure units may not yield as many extra places as is hoped. For the strategy to succeed, local authorities must co-operate with the department and raise £4 million from their own funds.

The minister's anxiety is that some councils will object, believing that it is wrong for juveniles to be locked up on remand even in local authority accommodation. It is understood that Mr Baker is investigating means of ensuring that council social services departments support the Home Office.

## Businesses of young surviving

YOUNG people who set up their own businesses with advice from the Prince's Youth Business Trust, the charitable organisation set up by the Prince of Wales, are winning in the face of the present economic climate (David Young writes).

The trust said that, despite the increase in small business bankruptcies, 71 per cent of those given grants by the trust and 74 per cent of those who took out loans are still in business after 18 months.

The prince said: "That success rate is a remarkable achievement when you remember that the trust is in the risk business. If we were merely to help those who could virtually guarantee success there would be little point in the work." He attributed the success of the scheme to the trust's practice of appointing a business adviser to spot any danger signs.

EAT  
THINK  
AND  
BE  
MERRY.

If you drink, please drink responsibly. We want you to enjoy this holiday season. But even more important, we want you to enjoy the next one.

SEAGRAM UNITED KINGDOM.

## Scots lay stress on proper pronunciation

By KERRY GILL

AS MACBETH found to his cost, Birnam wood did move to Dunsinane but, listening to an Englishman pronounce the latter place-name, a Scot could be forgiven for arguing the point. The correct pronunciation is "Dunsinnan" with the stress on the middle syllable.

Similarly, the Glasgow suburb of Milngavie is not pronounced as one might expect: it is "Milnguy", and Chapel of Garioch should be Chapel o' Gearie. These things matter to the Scots, who become irritated, if not heated, when the English get it wrong, which they invariably do.

Now pupils of class 2b at Tain Royal Academy in the Highlands have published a guide designed to correct such blunders. They have compiled an alphabetical list of Scottish places with their correct pronunciations and

rubbed in their contempt for the ignorant Sassenach with a catalogue of typically incorrect usage.

So popular has the book become that the *Pronouncing Dictionary of Scottish Place-names* is to be sold to the public, price £1.95. The list was compiled by the pupils from a survey of Scottish secondary schools. Each was invited to tell them of howlers voiced by "incomers and the media".

Kenneth Mackay, assistant principal teacher of English at the academy, oversaw the project which began in the 1988-9 school year. "It can be very irritating when names are mispronounced," he said. "The worst people are incomers and the media, radio and television, and there is a fear that the correct pronunciations could be lost forever."

Among places wrongly enunciated are Dumbiedykes, the correct way is "Dumnydykes", and Kirkcubright-

shire, often pronounced as it looks by the English, but in fact said "Kir-koo-bree-shier". Kingsussie should be "Kingussie" with the stress on the middle syllable. These are just some of around 900 entries in the booklet.

Thousands of Scots, however, find themselves hopelessly lost in the Outer Hebrides, where all the place names have recently been changed into Gaelic. For example the Hebridean capital of Stornoway has now become Steornabhagh.

Mr Mackay, asked whether the Scots ever got their tongues twisted over English names, said: "Well, I dare say, yes, I don't know that they do." But, when he tried to pronounce the Northumbrian village of Ponteland, he got it wrong.

Jumbo crossword, page 12  
Crossword, page 18  
Sports Crossword, page 22



# US tanks 'too costly even if they are given free'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE American battle tank which is being offered to the British Army to replace the ageing Chieftain would be more expensive than the British Challenger 2 rival, even if it were given away, according to an independent cost analysis.

General Dynamics, makers of the M1A1 Abrams, and Vickers Defence Systems, the British manufacturer of the Challenger 2, are the two main rivals for a £600 million tank contract, expected to be awarded by spring.

The extra costs of buying a foreign tank, with the implications for spares, ammunition and training, are being underlined by Vickers in the closing stages of the competition for the contract.

The British company commissioned HVR the market analysts to carry out cost comparisons. The firm's conclusion was that with all the additional back-up required for operating Abrams tanks, the overall cost would be higher even if the tank itself were offered free of charge.

Although Vickers recognises that General Dynamics will have offered a competitive price, the company believes the higher fuel costs of the gas-turbine Abrams and the fact that the ammunition is incompatible with British tank shells, could be one of the decisive elements in the government's considerations.

Britain's tank fleet now consists of 830 Chieftains and 450 Challenger 1s. If Challenger 2 were chosen the Army would have just one tank design.

Much has been made about the so-called gas-guzzling American tank. If there is a war with Iraq there will be a keen interest in seeing whether the refuelling supply line for the M1A1 Abrams can be maintained sufficiently.

One reason for the government's decision to delay announcing the winner of the contract was the desire on the defence ministry's part to see how both the M1A1 and the Challenger 1 function in combat.

Apart from vital issues such as armour protection, firepower and mobility, fuel consumption will be studied. Although the Challenger deployed in Saudi Arabia is the older model, Challenger 2 has a similar engine, a Perkins V12

turbocharged diesel system. General Dynamics switched to gas turbine engines for their tanks in 1963 but Britain never seriously considered following suit.

Challenger 2, of which there are now nine prototypes, can carry 1,640 litres of fuel in hull tanks and another 360 litres in "discardable drums". Independent figures suggest this gives a range of about 160 miles in cross-country running and 370 miles on roads.

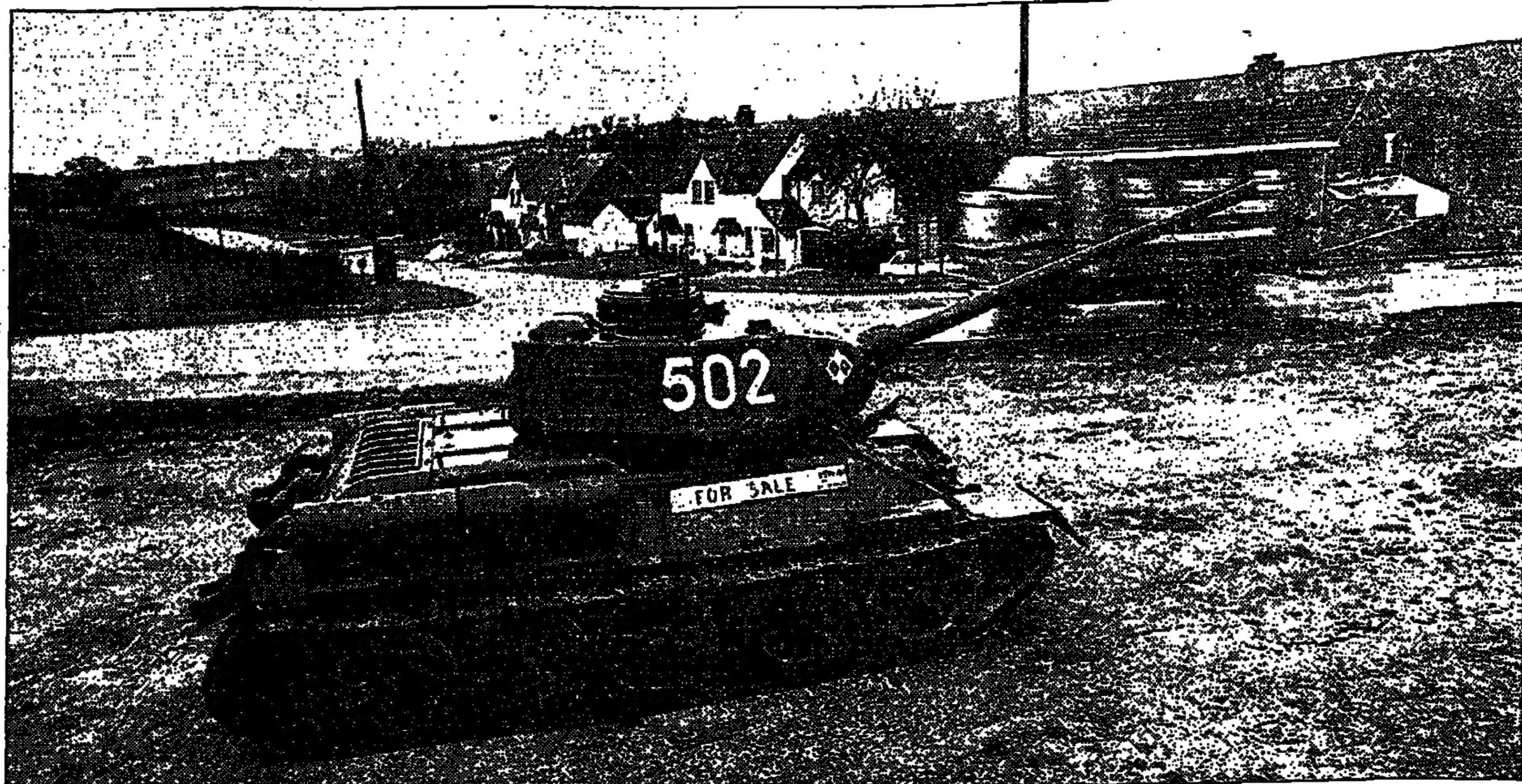
The M1A1 can carry 1,890 litres but the range is estimated to be just over 100 miles cross country and 150 miles by road. It is also estimated that when the engine is idle, the M1A1 gas turbine uses six times the amount of fuel as the diesel.

Vickers also claims that the Perkins diesel engine, which costs about £76,000, is designed to last 5,000 miles before needing an overhaul. The gas turbine engine, costing about £166,000, is reported to have only a 15 per cent probability of achieving 4,000 miles. The Soviet T72 tanks with which the Iraqi Republican Guards are equipped, have diesel engines.

The contract for about 300 new tanks, to be built over a seven-year period, should have been awarded by the end of this year. But Tom King, the defence secretary, announced a postponement. He gave several reasons: the Gulf, the government's "options for change" defence review and uncertainty over how many tanks to buy.

## For the discerning traveller, a real bargain at £12,000

ADRIAN BROOKS



Officers invited: Mr Goddard's T-34 tank, in camouflage green and in full military order, waiting at the side of a Dorset road for buyers willing to spend £12,000

By WILLIAM CASH

IT MAY be second hand and need a few rolls of wallpaper for gift-wrapping, but at least there is now one Christmas present for the person who has everything: a Russian T-34 tank, camouflage green, in good working order, full service history and a mere snip at £12,000.

Leon Goddard, aged 44, a property developer from Blandford, Dorset, placed a small advertisement for his tank in *Exchange & Mart* and has been deluged with calls ever since. The tank, made in Czechoslovakia in

1944, was first offered for sale at the Stourpaine steam rally auction in October, where a £12,100 bid was rejected. But in an effort to solve someone's last-minute Christmas shopping worries, he is now trying out the market again at a knock-down price.

"It would make an excellent Christmas present for all the family. Everybody wants to own a tank and at the price I am asking this is a real bargain. The price really is right in better times I could get £25,000," he said.

The tank, fitted with a working 85mm gun, is parked on the side of the A354 Blandford-Dor-

chester road. He is selling it because the 34-tonne vehicle had begun to sink through the concrete floor of his private hangar, where he keeps a Bell 47 G4A helicopter, also for sale.

Another reason is that his son, Lee, aged 14, has become bored with driving it around the capacious garden and wants to upgrade his personal transport to a James Bond-style water motorbike.

Mr Goddard said the tank has been re-conditioned, has new rubber runners and is ready for battle. His only warning is that the knack to tank-driving takes

some time to master. "People don't realise it's hard work driving a tank. Very noisy and hot inside. But it's a nice motor, ideal for all the family to enjoy," he said.

The tank's firing barrel is fully operational, though getting hold of the 85mm shells could be difficult, Mr Goddard admitted. He said that it is fairly easy to learn how to drive the diesel-powered machine, which is capable of over 40mph and will do about four miles a gallon.

The tank is an excellent investment, he believes. With the models which are being taken out

of service in Russia being cut up, he believes that his model could become a collector's piece.

Mr Goddard had about thirty callers last weekend, including a car dealer from Essex who wanted to display the tank in his forecourt, and a museum owner from the Midlands.

"People desperately want to buy it but there just isn't any money around at the moment. I had one man come here who used to drive a tank for the British army, saying he would get a second mortgage on his house to pay for it, but his wife refused to let him."

## Pre-school spending 'going to rich areas'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party yesterday accused the government of preparing to switch spending on pre-school education from poorer to richer areas.

Hilary Armstrong, Labour's junior education spokesman, said that changes in calculating standard spending assessments for councils would mean deprived inner cities having to spend less on schooling for under fives while better off parts of the country would gain.

The spending assessments are used to calculate government grants and are the limits against which council spending is measured for poll tax capping. Draft calculations, expected to be confirmed when the annual local government grant settlement is presented to Parliament early next month, would have the effect of redistributing money from deprived areas to the richer shires and suburban London boroughs.

In the current financial year an additional weighting has been given for so-called deprivation factors in an area when calculating the element of the spending assessment relating to education

for the under fives. Under the proposed settlement next year this weighting would be reduced by more than a third, reducing spending limits for deprived areas and putting them at risk of capping if they continued to spend at current levels.

Mrs Armstrong said: "The changes in the amount that can be spent on nursery education represent a considerable redistribution from poorer to better off local authorities. As a result Surrey county council will gain the right to spend an extra £1,517,000 on under fives, while Manchester loses £1,636,000." Most of the affected education authorities were Labour-controlled and had the best record of providing nursery education, she said.

The environment department said yesterday that the weighting changes had been sought by the local authority associations and came after a period of sustained growth in the amount councils could spend on nursery education. Over the last two years the figure had risen by between 11 and 24 per cent and the impact of the proposed change had been fully researched.

According to Labour's calculations, the worst-affected local authority in London would be Lambeth, which will lose £1,873 million. The total loss for London would be £15,894 million. In the North-East, Labour-controlled Cleveland will be able to spend £504,000 less and in the North, Labour-controlled Bradford will suffer the biggest cut of £876,000.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is expected formally to present the settlement package to Parliament when MPs return to Westminster on January 14. Conservative MPs with marginal majorities will be hoping that the first results of his poll tax review will be foreshadowed in the announcement by some measures to reduce next year's poll tax bills.

The review team, led by Mr Roger Bright, the former head of information at the environment department, is working on a number of reforms to the system but it is not clear whether Mr Heseltine will make any interim announcements before it completes its task.

## Asil Nadir's treasures go on view for auction

By JOHN SHAW

A HOUSE full of antiques bought by Asil Nadir to reflect the prestige of Polly Peck International will be on view to creditors of the failed business empire early in the new year.

Phillips, the auctioneers, is planning an in-house view between February 8 and 12 before a £3 million contents sale on February 19. Viewing will be as at a country house sale, with admission by catalogue, price £20.

A special preview is being organised for the fine art trade, wealthy collectors and museums, potentially the main buyers of 300 lots of rugs, tapestries, pictures and furniture which Mr Nadir assembled for his flagship building at 42 Berkeley Square, Mayfair.

With the help of a top interior decorator, the property was fitted out in the style of a Georgian town house, a throwback to its rich and titled 18th century origins. A fine period writing desk gave a good first impression and there was more Georgian mahogany in the boardroom upstairs.

A breakfast library bookcase, which matched the table and chairs, is expected to make £150,000-£200,000.

Among the 12-15 pictures are a portrait of a lady by George Romney (1734-1802), and two Turner watercolours of castles (estimated £100,000-£150,000 and £150,000-£200,000).

Phillips describes the lots as being of "museum quality".

Tempos, page 20

## Pensions equality plea

THE absence of common pension arrangements could hamper the free movement of workers between countries within the European Community after 1992, according to TUC report published today (Tim Jones writes).

The report, *Pensions and 1992*, claims that the provision of pension benefits across national boundaries will be one of the greatest tests facing employers and

## Karpov needs touch of black magic as chess defeat looms

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

ANATOLY Karpov, the former world chess champion, took his last permitted time out in Lyons on Saturday evening, postponing game 22 until today. Karpov trails against defending champion Gary Kasparov by 11½ points to 9½.

World chess federation rules say that the champion retains his title in the event of a drawn match and Kasparov needs just one draw from the remaining three games to clinch victory. Karpov, the world champion between 1975-85, faces almost certain defeat, especially as he will be playing black in two of the games.

A powerful factor in this match has been the remarkable record of the player with the white pieces. Since the world championship started in 1886, black has never failed to win at least one game. In the 21 games played so far in the current match, however, white has won six games, while all the others have been drawn. If Karpov is to win his remaining three games he must do so twice with the black pieces. If he fails, white's success will go down in the record books.

The quality of play so far has been as good as in any previous world championship contest. Such matches always produce mistakes, and those made in this match were probably brought on by the tension of the occasion and the enormous rewards at stake. The prize fund is a record \$3 million (£1.5 million).

Karpov has pledged his share of the prize purse to the fund for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster while Kasparov intends to

use his prize money to further the aims of the Democratic party of Russia, of which he is vice-chairman.

Until game 17 the match was still on level terms but at the start of game 18 Kasparov made a dramatic breakthrough, scoring three points out of the next four games. The secret of Kasparov's success was his continual attack on what he perceived to be Karpov's main weak point, his black defence against the white opening move of the King's pawn. Using the Ruy Lopez opening, Kasparov eventually exhausted his opponent's defensive repertoire.

As the match nears its close and Kasparov's success begins to look inevitable a brief controversy has arisen among some of the watching grand masters. After game 19 and game 21, both of which ended in draws, Kasparov and Karpov, known to be great enemies, engaged in lengthy post-mortem discussions, in full view of the audience, of what might have happened in the games.

Asked whether relations between the two were suddenly warming Kasparov said: "No, I have not changed my mind about Karpov, but you have to realise that he is the only serious opponent in the world for me ... Anatoly Karpov is the only man in the world who understands chess at the same level as I do."

These discussions and the drawn outcomes have led to speculation by some players that the results were decided in advance. Boris Spassky, the Soviet world champion from 1969-72, said: "It is worse than disgusting. Karpov and Kasparov must have made an agreement to draw. I am shocked. I have never seen anything like this before. They must have decided beforehand."

Kasparov has dismissed the allegations, claiming that the disease of jealousy had infected the former world champion. "I think Spassky feels left behind by the world changing around him. Spassky says these crazy things to be noticed for a moment or two," he added.

## Cruel thieves 'silence' blind boy

Thieves have stolen a deaf, blind and autistic boy's computer, printer and tape recorder — his only way to communicate with his mother. While Mrs Jill Brown was out Christmas shopping, they broke into her house in Stratford, east London, and took away the equipment which is used by her son Mark, aged 10.

Scotland Yard said: "The thieves got away with an Acorn computer, printer and tape recorder, which has braille keys and braille printer. It is the sole means of communication between the mother and her 10-year-old."

## The last Nowell

Keepers on one of Britain's loneliest lighthouses, the Bishop's Rock, more than 30 miles out in the Atlantic off the Cornish coast, are spending their last Christmas there tomorrow. Automatic equipment is to be installed next year.

## Coach arrest

A man aged 22 who was arrested after a sheet was thrown over the head of a coach driver has been sent for hospital treatment before being charged by police in Caernarvon, Gwynedd. The coach, on its way to Pwllheli, was stopped safely by the driver.

## Sizeable find

The pelvis of a male elephant half a million years old has been found embedded in a cliff face near Cromer, North Norfolk, after high tides eroded the coastline. It will be put on show in Norwich.

## Murder charge

Richard Bartle, aged 29, of Camborne, Cornwall, is to appear before magistrates in the town today accused of murdering a baby girl. The body of Danielle Bunt, aged seven-months, was found in Camborne a week ago.

## Out of bounds

A father Christmas had to stop giving away presents in St Thomas's Square, Newport, Isle of Wight, yesterday after a traffic warden found that his sleigh was illegally parked.

## Cargo dumped

Two thousand tonnes of bananas have been dumped on a Cardiff rubbish tip after they began to rot, when the ship bringing them from the Windward Isles broke down for 11 days.

## Fully engaged

Three men were freed by firemen after an hour from public toilets in the Market Place, Ilkeston, Derbyshire yesterday when the door jammed. Two elderly ladies raised the alarm when they heard shouting.

## Bear-faced con

Police at Spalding, Lincolnshire, are looking for a man dressed as a teddy bear who has been collecting at public houses with a bucket, labelled "Gulf fund."

## Final sentence

After 400 years the court at Eglwyswrrw, Dyfed, where Judge Jeffreys once sat, has been closed to save money.

## Bond winners

National Savings premium bond weekly winners: £100,000, bond number 22AP 495599 (winner lives in Coventry); £50,000, 24TL 116549 (Hereford and Worcester); £25,000, 21VZ 584834 (Devon).

*"It's far better to relieve their pent-up aggression towards women through the harmless medium of the male pantomime Dame than through their own furthest and dearest."*



The great British pantomime under investigation this Friday

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

## Back-to-back houses are rescued by museum

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the last two surviving relics of back-to-back housing in Manchester, widespread in the mid-19th century, has been rescued by the city's Museum of Science and Industry, and will be rebuilt to demonstrate early urban growth and the appalling living conditions of the time.

The museum paid £5,000-£6,000 for the terrace, called Walker's Buildings, which was to be knocked down to make way for a refurbishment scheme behind Manchester's Piccadilly station. It has completed an archaeological record and the careful dismantling of the terrace.

The buildings will be stored until they can be reconstructed as part of a workers' housing project by the museum, along with two "blind-back" houses.

It was hoped that, by professionally recording details of the building, enough evidence of the original structure could be gath-

ered to allow a substantial reconstruction to be carried out. That will, however, depend in part on the quantity of original material reclaimed, according to the museum.

The building was probably converted into warehousing by the end of the century, and has undergone much alteration, including the removal of most of the internal walls.

Dr Patrick Greene, museum director, said the terrace was important because of the disappearance of back-to-back housing.

"People tend to think of it as looking like Coronation Street, but that is very different from the early 19th century houses," he said. "They were tiny but, even so, some had a complete family living in the cellar."

"It was conditions like these, especially for the Irish, who were at the bottom of the social heap,



Saved: a rare example of back-to-back housing in Manchester

that shocked writers like Dickens and Mrs Gaskell and led to improvements." He hoped the courtyard would be built in the

next two years, but said the important thing was to rescue the building before it was too late and rebuild it when resources allowed.



# Gulf states plan defence pact

SIX Gulf states laid the groundwork yesterday for a new security pact to protect the region after Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait or been defeated.

The move is likely to please the United States and Britain, which have argued for the need for much stronger arrangements. If invited, they would contribute forces, and some expect an Arab-Western grouping, comparable to Nato, to emerge.

The Gulf Co-operation Council members - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates - had begun to build a joint defence network before the invasion of Kuwait, but it was too small and

To deter attackers once Iraq has been beaten, writes Andrew McEwen, the Gulf states will create their own Nato

powerless to deter the tanks of President Saddam Hussein. Although able to afford the latest in equipment, the states lacked the population and the political co-ordination to face a regional superpower.

The annual Gulf council summit in Doha on Saturday reflected a new determination to prevent any aggressor from seizing a weaker neighbour again. Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar and host of the summit, said: "Things cannot be allowed to proceed as they

were before the event of August 2. We need to establish a more effective security system that would... shield our region against the recurrence of aggression."

Senior Gulf council officials said that the group was talking to Iran about a new security pact, marking an important shift in alliance since the six countries sided with Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war.

However, *Jomhuri Eslami*, a headline Tehran newspaper, criticised the Gulf council arrangement yesterday as "the

product of an American plan". Tehran has opposed both the invasion of Kuwait and the presence of Western forces in the Gulf, and it is not clear how it would respond to such an offer.

Peninsular Shield, a Gulf council force of 10,000 men, forms part of the multinational forces in the Gulf. This force could be expanded, but would probably never be able to match the Iraqi army.

A senior British source said Britain would not offer forces to such a pact, but if invited it would probably agree.

The need for the new pact could arise as soon as next month if Iraq makes a complete withdrawal, as some British officials think likely.

## Baghdad threatens to take war beyond the Middle East

By Andrew McEwen  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IRAQ has threatened to attack British and American interests throughout the world if force is used to drive its troops out of Kuwait.

Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, who has spent six days in Iraq, said this warning was given by members of the Revolutionary Command Council.

"If the Iraqis are attacked by Americans and other forces, they have told me that they can promise that the war will not be confined to the Middle East but that American and British interests anywhere in the world will be attacked," he said, speaking in Amman after leaving Baghdad.

An American report on Saturday said Iraq and Libya had agents in place ready to attack American and British targets in the Middle East. Europe and the United States in the event of war, *US News and World Report*, a weekly magazine, added that underground cells of Islamic extremists were believed to be active in some US cities.

The warning coincided with belligerent remarks by both Iraqi and American officials. Lieutenant-General Saadi Tuma Abbas, the new Iraqi defence minister, said: "Iraqi troops were ready to 'crush any aggression'."

(Richard) Cheney and his aides will see how the land will burn under their feet not only in Iraq but... also in eastern Saudi Arabia, which will be set ablaze by Saudi warriors and our Arab people afflicted by the treachery of (Saudi Arabian King) Fahd," he said.

Mr Cheney, the American defence secretary, said in Dhahran that the clock was ticking towards war, with no sign of an Iraqi withdrawal. American forces were expected to increase from nearly 300,000 to 430,000 soon, and would be ready to fight on orders from President Bush.

Iraqi forces in Kuwait are estimated at 510,000 out of a total of one million. American troops will be on a high state of alert during Christmas because of fears that Iraq may mount a surprise attack. Egypt and Syria attacked Israel during Yom Kippur, a Jewish holiday, in October 1973.

Earlier Mr Cheney warned Iraq that if it used chemical weapons the American response would be "overwhelming". However, Saadi Mehdi Saleh, Speaker of the Iraqi parliament, said chemical weapons would be used and compared their effectiveness to that of nuclear weapons. Iraq ordered all schools, nur-



Finger on the pulse: Cheney, the American defence secretary, says the clock is ticking towards war

cries and colleges to close if war started.

Other civil defence measures included mass evacuation exercises and the publication of updated advice on bomb shelters and a black-out, as well as a warning to schoolchildren to run for cover.

Mr Cheney later flew to Cairo for talks with President Mubarak before returning to Washington. He and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are to report to President Bush today on the readiness of American troops.

Felipe Gonzalez, prime minister of Spain, was reported to have said that he had received some signals that Iraq was considering withdrawing its forces from occu-

ried Kuwait. Speaking to reporters after meeting President Chadi Benjedid of Algeria in Madrid on Saturday, Señor Gonzalez said President Saddam had a "certain willingness to pull out".

*El País*, the Madrid daily newspaper, said Señor Gonzalez was more optimistic than Mr Chadi about a negotiated settlement. The Algerian news agency APS quoted Mr Chadi as saying that Algeria had not received any mandate and had no peace plan.

His visit was part of a one-week tour of nine countries to seek support for a peaceful solution. He also met the Pope and spent Saturday night in Rabat, where he had a five-hour meeting with King Hassan of Morocco.

## Germany looks into Iraq links of firms

The German government is investigating 50 companies, whose names were provided by the American embassy last week, for allegedly violating the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq (A Correspondent writes from Bonn).

Dieter Vogel, a government spokesman, said that the authorities had so far found no evidence that companies were breaking the UN resolution, adding that the list contained partly wrong information. Investigations were continuing, he added.

*Der Spiegel*, the weekly news magazine, reports that American intelligence services compiled the list after surveillance of all telephone and facsimile communications from Iraq to foreign countries. US embassy officials in Bonn declined to comment, but Herr Vogel confirmed the list was in the hands of the economics ministry.

*Der Spiegel* said the CIA observed that German businessmen from MAN, the technology giant, and from Bielefelder Gildemeister Projecta GmbH, builder of the largest military research centre in Iraq, travelled to Baghdad through Jordan as recently as two weeks ago.

## Blood flown to Saudi Arabia

Hundreds of units of blood from donors are being flown to a British military field hospital in Saudi Arabia in preparation for casualties if war begins in the Gulf (Thomson Prentice writes).

The National Blood Transfusion Service confirmed yesterday that supplies have been sent regularly for at least a month. The service intends to open emergency centres for donors throughout Britain if extra supplies should become necessary. The plans stop short of a nationwide appeal for blood, because of confidence that there would be a spontaneous response from the public.

## Sailors grieve

Jerusalem - Thousands of crewmen of the American aircraft carrier *Saratoga* stood at attention at a shipboard memorial service for 20 of their comrades who drowned in a ferry accident. The Israeli-run ferry *Tuvia* sank early on Saturday while carrying about a hundred sailors back to the *Saratoga*, anchored off Haifa for the Christmas holiday. The cause of the accident is still not clear.

## Suez plot claim

Ismaïliya - Egypt has tightened security at the Suez Canal after learning of a plot to block it if a Gulf war breaks out, security sources said yesterday. They had received warnings that ships carrying cement might be scuttled or dump their cargo in the waterway with the aim of preventing reinforcements and supplies from reaching the multinational forces arrayed against Iraq (Reuters).

## Convert hanged

An Iranian Protestant activist has been executed in the northeast of the country on charges of apostasy. Hussein Sudmand, born a Muslim, was hanged in Mashhad because he had distributed leaflets preaching Pentecostalism (Hazhir Teimourian writes). Under Islamic law, Muslims are not permitted to renounce their religion. He leaves a wife and four children.

## Top editor dies

Jerusalem - Gershon Gustav Schocken, the veteran editor of the respected Israeli daily *Haaretz* and one of the country's most acclaimed journalists, has died, aged 78, after a prolonged illness. German-born Mr Schocken, who had been editor since 1939, died at Shaiba Hospital in Tel Aviv from what *Haaretz* described as a "malignant disease" which was diagnosed a year ago (AP).

## Christmas rediscovered as guns are stilled in Beirut

From Ali Jaber in Beirut

The thud of explosions has faded into the jingling of Christmas bells, while the soot-stained and shell-pocked streets of this city are now glittering with red, white and green ornaments. Even the Muslim fundamentalist Hezbollah, which banned Christmas celebrations during its reign over Beirut between 1984 and 1987, has hung baubles and banners on its headquarters in Amra Street, citing Koranic verses praising Jesus Christ as "the prophet of love and compassion".

Christmas trees line the streets of the Christian Hamra district, while Santas hand out gifts and mistletoe to children. Wafiq Hamadeh, a toy seller, says that the highest-selling toy this year is an electronic educational game that enables children to learn geography and history at the press of a button. In past years, plastic replicas of MiG16s, tanks and cannon were the hottest items on display in the windows.

"We have been yearning for peace after years of oppression by the militias," said Khalil Azar, owner of a boutique in Hamra. Khalil could never celebrate because of the "bombs". Families that were separated by the enforced division of Beirut along religious lines are reunited for their first Christmas in 15 years. Marilyn Naoum, a Christian married to a Muslim resident of

west Beirut, has invited her younger brother from east Beirut to join them to sing carols on Christmas Eve.

Many Muslim families, relieved of sectarian hatred, are joining in the Christian celebrations. "It is fun for our children and a great relief for us," said Fatima Kurd, a Muslim mother buying presents for her 10-year-old son.

But the deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon means that few families are able to afford to spend lavishly, and some Christian families have had to replace the traditional turkey with a less expensive meal of beans and lettuce salad. Mrs Youma Hamaty said she paid around \$75 for the ingredients for her dinner - too costly for the average Lebanese earning less than \$40 a month.

Beirut's Maronite bishop, Khalil Abi-Nader, said that Lebanon would celebrate Christmas this year despite the economic situation. "We have experienced all kinds of killings, sufferings and hatreds during the war years," he said. "It is time we enjoyed peace." The bishop said that his church would hold midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. The ritual had been replaced during wartime by afternoon prayers.

Bernard Levin, page 8  
Leading article, letters, page 9  
Life and Times, page 12

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# Czechoslovakia braces itself for invasion of Soviet migrants

AS DUSK falls on Vysne Nemecke, a rural border crossing between eastern Czechoslovakia and the Ukraine, a company of Soviet army transport drivers musters for roll call in a parking area. Thirty yards away a white Soviet tour coach stands at the border gate. As their army withdraws from the Warsaw Pact countries, Soviet troops are moving east.

But, as fears grow of civil unrest, famine and economic collapse in the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia is taking new measures to prepare for an onslaught of Soviet citizens moving west in search of better living conditions. Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Finland are the new frontier states, facing the prospect of a wholesale movement of the Soviet population. Already Czechoslovakia is preparing refu-

gee camps and has established the legal principle of political asylum, an unheard of concept during 42 years of Communist rule.

This week, too, the government announced that it would finance housing for 3,000 refugees and conduct more talks with Hungary and Poland on co-ordinating border policy as a protection against a wave of refugees. But on the border there is little to stop the Soviet migrants from coming, and little to welcome them if they do. On the Czech side of the border there is little to stop Soviet citizens from moving west. Along the 60-mile frontier with the Soviet Union Czechoslovakia has only several thousand border guards who were recently reinforced, amid great ballyhoo, by a 200-strong company.

In nearby Michalovce, a market

town of 38,000 souls on the eastern edge of Czechoslovakia's Slovak republic, Soviet shoppers have been a common sight for many years. "We have five to seven tour buses full of Soviets each day, especially on Tuesday and Friday, which is market day here," Milan Pichanic, a district sub-prefect, said.

He said his district of 111,000 people was woefully unprepared to cope with a flood of Soviet migrants. "We don't expect the very poor people or beggars, we think it will be people looking for

work, to send money home to the Soviet Union, but still, we have no buildings or camps here. What they have planned so far is a ridiculous number compared to the number of people who could come," he added.

So far Czechoslovakia has said that all Soviet citizens applying for entry to Czechoslovakia will need visas and will be screened at the border to see if they have enough money to support themselves and are likely to return home.

But Slovak police have already been ordered to accept asylum

requests from Soviet citizens and others at all local police stations. Official sources in Czechoslovakia have so far played down the numbers involved, but West European diplomats in Prague say a flood of Soviet migrants is highly likely. "Certainly the possibility exists. If you look to Poland, as soon as it was possible to travel there, hundreds of thousands of Poles went west to work," one diplomat said. "But whether we will see families with their grandmothers and suitcases piled up on donkey carts, that is unlikely unless there is a major crisis like war or complete economic collapse." But he added, neither war nor economic collapse were any longer beyond possibility.

Already the Soviet shoppers have a reputation. The owner of a recently opened private electron-

ics shop said: "The Soviets will buy anything in great quantity. They don't ask about the price, just how many. Anything they find they buy."

At Michalovce's Dargov department store, most shoppers are from the Soviet Union. Until the end of the year they are able to exchange roubles for crowns through Soviet and Czech banks for five times the black market rate.

Jozef Kurocka, manager of the shop's fabric department, said: "They buy everything, and when they don't have enough money they sell watches, Christmas ornaments, linens and synthetic housecoats. But these are day trips, so the women have no time to sell their bodies for merchandise."

In Prague, Jiri Krizan, President Havel's military and security af-

fairs adviser, said Czechoslovakia was genuinely worried about the prospect of a flood of Soviet refugees and was working fast to prepare itself. But he admitted that in a hard winter and painful economic reforms, Czechoslovakia cannot afford to have hundreds of thousands of Soviet migrants camped on its territory.

He said the country might take a leaf from Italy's book on dealing with refugees and try to integrate them into society, rather than building refugee camps.

"In no case," he said, would Czechoslovakia open its border with the Soviet Union. But, he added, Czechoslovakia would not shun its humanitarian obligations. "Tens of thousands of our refugees were given refuge in the West, so we have a moral duty to help others, too," he added.

## Major ready to exercise his skills in Moscow soon

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN Major expects to make his first visit to Moscow as prime minister soon, boosting hopes that Britain's status in world affairs may remain relatively high after the leadership change.

He faces a greater test of his diplomatic skills there than he did in Washington, where the background to Margaret Thatcher's resignation is better understood than it was at first.

Her departure caused bewilderment in Moscow, where she was highly respected. Fewer people were aware that her position in British politics was less secure than her role as a stateswoman implied. It cannot be assumed that Moscow will try as hard as Washington to help Mr Major establish himself.

He is expected to continue Mrs Thatcher's support for President Gorbachev, but may show more caution. The resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze as Soviet foreign minister has emphasised fears that Mr Gorbachev's powers

are becoming excessive. If, as many fear, he puts the reform process aside to regain the support of the centre-right, or if he is overthrown, the West would have to reconsider its attitude.

Mr Major may hint that British support would remain strong so long as Mr Gorbachev continues to show restraint. If he uses military force to prevent the Baltic republics from seceding, the government will face a dilemma. A senior source made it clear that Britain could not ignore such a development, and might withdraw support for Western aid to Moscow.

Just before Mrs Thatcher left office, there was talk of her meeting Mr Gorbachev by the end of the year to sign an Anglo-Soviet friendship agreement. The agreement had been requested by Moscow as a way of demonstrating a new relationship after the Cold War era. Britain did not object, but is thought to have insisted that it should be an agreement rather than a legally-binding treaty. A senior source said that the agreement presented "no problem", which showed that the government's attitude had not been affected by Mrs Thatcher's departure.

The tone changed soon after Mr Shevardnadze's resignation. Another source said that the government had taken no decision on such an agreement, implying that it was no longer just a matter of a date. Mr Gorbachev will probably expect Mr Major to sign it during his first visit, which makes it important that the Foreign Office should assess correctly which way Mr Gorbachev is heading.

No date has been fixed for Mr Major's visit, but the government is thought to prefer March, when the outcome of the summit in mid-February between President Bush and President Gorbachev will be known.

Anglo-Soviet ties since 1985 have mirrored the warmth and argumentativeness of Mrs Thatcher's relationship with Mr Gorbachev. Her departure does not necessarily mean an Anglo-Soviet cooling, as both Mr Gorbachev and Mr Major have an interest in preserving the closeness, but their contacts seem certain to be less lively.

● PARIS: The Prince of Wales said in an interview on French television yesterday that society should strike a balance between the ideals of communism and capitalism.

"I do not think one should consider this collapse of an ideology as the death of communism and the triumph of capitalism," the prince told France's TF1 television channel, referring to recent events in East Europe.

"Today we must conceive a way to develop our perception of life, once again, as an equilibrium between the two (ideologies). We need capitalism but perhaps with a more human face," the prince said. (Reuters)

## Sex ousts politics in weary Latvia

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

IF TANKS do roll down the streets of Riga, Latvia's Hanseatic capital, historians of the future may observe with puzzlement that the local independence movement spent its last days talking about sex rather than politics.

In one of the most bizarre developments among nationalist movements in the Soviet Union, the editors of the Latvian Popular Front's excellent political weekly, *Baltiskaya Vremya*, have branched out into what they call sophisticated erotica. "Everything about politics has already been said," explained Vladimir Linderman, a quiet, courteous, young man who recently launched *Eska* in the hope of establishing it as a profitable bimonthly that will help to finance the main paper.

The publication aims, with uneven success, to be witty and sociological rather than pornographic: the first issue includes an interview with Nancy Friday, the American chronicler of sexual fantasy, an extract from her writings, and a serious item on a secret gay rights group.

There is also an innocent enough article (except in a Soviet context) on the private life of Lenin, a horrific story of a woman who kills herself after being used for sexual experiments, and a spoof classified advertisement based on the story of *Lolita*. "Man, 50, seeks girl 12-14", which would not appeal to everyone's sense of humour.

The publication of anything so unbecomingly light by the independence movements of Catholic Lithuania, or even of Protestant Estonia, is hard to imagine. But as the Baltic republics brace for the possibility of repression by the Soviet army, snuffing out the patriotic flames that have burned so brilliantly over the last three years, certain themes seem to be common to the mood of all three republics.

Phenomena like *Eska* are only one response to a much wider weariness with politics and a renewed concern with private affairs, be they sexual or financial.

● BONN: The Soviet army is confused about its future role but is far from considering a military takeover in the Soviet Union, Nato's top commander in Europe said yesterday.

## US warms to Major's cool, thoughtful style

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

Unusually for such a renowned workaholic, John Major was relaxed enough about his visit to the United States to spend much of the flight there socialising with journalists rather than doing any last-minute swotting up.

The Gulf and Edward Shevardnadze's resignation denied the new prime minister front-page coverage in America, and his natural caution ensured the frustration of American television interviewers used to Margaret Thatcher's more colourful ad

libs. For the moment, understandably, Mr Major restricts himself to his brief. But the objectives of his pre-Christmas flying visit were achieved: he showed himself for the first time to the 25 million viewers of the television breakfast shows, he struck up an easy, informal relationship with President Bush (and his dogs), and he impressed the senior American politicians and officials who met him. The verdict filtering back was that they found him straight, thoughtful and easy to get on with. Americans like

you to like them and their country. Mr Major, pointing out with some irritation that he has been travelling beyond the white cliffs of Dover for years, clearly does. His unscripted remarks at a lunch with senators and congressmen won him an impromptu standing ovation after he had dwelt on his father's life in America.

Unlike Mrs Thatcher, Mr Major may not need periodic exposure to the American way of life to recharge his ideological batteries, but there will clearly be no need to dig up the roots of the special relationship to see if it still exists. The ease of communication and community of interest, he emphasises, is still there — and his predecessor never got to stay the night at Camp David for sing-along carols as he did.

At their joint press conference before Mr Major's return home, Mr Bush was prepared to let the prime minister make the running on questions about the Gulf, coming in as chorus to acknowledge "that says it all". Mr Bush would have feared the revival of the "wimp" label if he had done that with Mrs Thatcher. Mr Major

wasn't quite so quick at the state department with James Baker, the Secretary of State. After their talks, Mr Baker swept him to a car past the waiting battery of cameras and reporters, then came back and gave a press conference, apologising that it was for visiting prime ministers to choose whether they stopped and Mr Major had been too busy. He had simply not realised the pack was waiting for him. He will learn.

He pleased America by making reassuring noises about the future of Nato and Britain's determination to fend off the development of any independent European defence structure which would diminish the American role.

And, if the American preoccupation with the Gulf denied him the front pages, it did help to give him a purchase on American political and public attention. Britain's steadfast support on the Gulf has been appreciated by the administration, troubled by far less resolute public opinion than in the United Kingdom. And, whereas a year ago Mrs Thatcher's

nose was put out of joint by the greater American attention given to Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Mitterrand of France, White House officials were content for Mr Major to come and growl at President Saddam Hussein alongside them.

With a little mild table-banging, Mr Major appeared to have impressed on those he met that more effort and flexibility on their part as well as that of the European Community was required if the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks were to be rescued. America, he told them, had not been "at its negotiating best" at the trade talks.

Only three weeks into his term as prime minister, the visit was more of a test than it looked. Mr Major came through it well. His public performances, if still a little colourless, are crisp. He never hesitates for an answer.

In the end, his visit was really about getting to know Mr Bush and the White House inner circle. Mr Major has achieved that objective in a typically quiet and thorough way.



Bless this lamb: an old woman cradling a dressed lamb, symbol of harmlessness and purity, in the streets of Bucharest yesterday. She was hoping to make some money as Romanians consider it good luck to touch a lamb in the days before Christmas

## Albania reformist gets key job as 15,000 attend protest rally

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALBANIA has named a young reformist to a top government post in a wide-ranging economic reshuffle that follows the end of stalinism and the founding of the first opposition party.

State television announced on Saturday night that Fatos Nano, an economic adviser to the communist party's central committee, had been appointed general secretary to the government and that the finance minister, Andrea Nako, had been replaced.

Cries of "freedom" and "democracy" rang out on Saturday from 15,000 people who attended a rally at Tirana university in support of the new Democratic Party, which intends to fight elections planned for February 10.

The rally was shown on television and reported in the official press after they had virtually ignored the new party since it was founded 11 days ago.

Before the rally, one of the Democratic Party's leaders, Gramoz Pashko, said it had the signatures of 40,000 supporters and that it would soon launch a formal membership drive and create branches across Albania, which has a population of only about three million.

"I think we'll get many support-

ers," he said. "I'm sure people will vote for us. But it depends on how we develop our campaign... and on whether dark extremist forces allow the country to have a peaceful election campaign."

Mr Nano has been adviser to government leaders on ways to reform the country's stalinist economy. He replaced Niko Gjizari, who was moved to the new post of general director of the

state bank, while Qemal Disha was named finance minister in place of Mr Nako.

Also removed in Saturday's reshuffle were the hardline security chief, Simon Stefani, and the transport minister, Hajredin Celiku. Mr Stefani was replaced as security chief by Ali Kaza and Mr Celiku's transport post was taken by Sakvador Franja.

Meanwhile, leading Albanian intellectuals have set up the country's first independent human rights group.

"Our activity will be to press for the release of all political prisoners in Albania and to monitor legal procedures," said Arben Puto, chairman of the Forum for the Defence of Human Rights.

Mr Puto said he did not know how many political prisoners there were in Albania. "There are rumours that there were several thousand. Some have been released in recent years but now they must all be set free. It is nonsense to accept pluralism but still to have political prisoners," he said in an interview yesterday.

Mr Puto, aged 66, a professor of international law and diplomacy and co-author of an authoritative history of Albania, said the group needed foreign advice and assistance to carry out its work.



Pashko warning given of "dark, extremist forces"

## Defiant Slovenes vote to secede

From RICHARD BASSETT IN LJUBLJANA

IN DEFIANCE of federal warnings and thinly veiled threats from the Yugoslav army, Slovenia yesterday voted in a plebiscite for independence. If, as is predicted here, support for secession is overwhelming, the Slovene government believes it will be able to leave Yugoslavia's embattled federation after six months.

The vote came as Yugoslavia's other prosperous northern republic, Croatia, adopted a new constitution which prepares the ground for its own secession. The new Croatian constitution allows for a referendum on secession to be held within 30 days of the Croat parliament approving of such a move with a two-thirds majority.

Both Slovenia and Croatia have a history of long association with the Austro-Hungarian empire and central European values. They are increasingly dismissive of Yugoslavia's southern republic of Serbia, which after centuries of Ottoman rule remains undeniably Balkan. These differences in culture have become exacerbated on the political front, after the landslide victory of the communist leader, Slobodan Milosevic, in the first round of the Serbian elections earlier this year.

The second round, which contests 154 seats, is expected to result in another communist victory, which Western diplomats increasingly view as the consequence of ballot-rigging. Unlike the democratically elected leaders of Slovenia and Croatia, Mr Milosevic favours greater centralisation.

He is unwilling to negotiate or even hold talks with either Zagreb or Ljubljana. His arrogance has forced the Slovenes into believing that they can no longer coexist with the Serbs.

Federal institutions such as the national health service, national organisation of chemists and the banking system are crumbling. Room for compromise is becoming increasingly limited. A senior Western diplomat noted at the weekend: "I was optimistic that Yugoslavia might just muddle along, but after the events of the last two weeks I no longer think that is possible."

Yugoslavia's picture of chaos leaves the almost inescapable impression that only a military takeover can resolve its problems. Not surprisingly, fear of the Yugoslav army, the majority of whose officers are Serbs, runs particularly high in Croatia where territorial units have been put on special alert throughout the republic. Details emerged at the weekend of a contingency programme, involving all police and territorial units in Croatia, should the slightest sign of military activity be registered.

In Slovenia, where a small military unit occupied the defence headquarters earlier this year, there is also unease. Janes Jansa, a pacifist jailed by the army two years ago, who is now Slovenia's rather implausible minister of defence, said: "If the army tries anything we will fight to defend ourselves." He has organised his territorial militia to be ready to move at a moment's notice.

## Walesa makes peace gesture

Warsaw — In a stunning diplomatic gesture, President Walesa yesterday invited as his first guest to Belvedere Palace his former jailer and the man who had just vacated it, Wojciech Jaruzelski (Agnie Olson writes).

Afterwards, the new president, his family and his aides returned to Gdansk, from where he expects to conduct many of the affairs of state.

General Jaruzelski was pointedly absent on Saturday from Mr Walesa's inauguration as Poland's first popularly elected president. The former Solidarity leader had announced that he would accept the symbols of presidential office not from his predecessor, but from Ryszard Kaczorowski, president of the Polish government-in-exile.

This group of ageing Poles, who never gave up their dream of independence in spite of the postwar decision of the allied powers to put Poland in the Soviet orbit, has been based in London since 1939, when it was forced to flee Poland because of the Nazi invasion.

With the democratic election of a new president, it lost its reason for existence. Mr Kaczorowski handed over to Mr Walesa the presidential insignia, including a banner, three chancellery seals, and the original handwritten text of the 1935 Polish constitution.

But Mr Walesa yesterday met General Jaruzelski, who had recognized several months ago that he was an anachronism and agreed to step down one year into his six-year term. The general "shared his experience as president with Lech Walesa and wished him success in his mission", the Polish news agency PAP said.

## Threat by ETA

Bilbao — The Basque separatist group ETA said yesterday that it was responsible for 12 armed attacks, including a car bombing on December 8 in the northeastern town of Sabadell that killed six policemen. In a statement published in the Basque paper *Egin*, ETA said it would step up attacks on businesses and engineers working on the building of the Navarre to San Sebastian motorway project "who are direct operational targets". (Reuters)

## Railway explosion

Moscow — At least seven people died and 50 were injured at the weekend when a gas tanker exploded at a small railway station in central Russia, causing two passenger trains to collide. Tass said 16 carriages in the two trains burned out after the accident at Yeliskovo, near Byelgorod. The locomotive of the first express was blown on to another track when the gas tanker blew up in the sidings. (Reuters)



Marchais: veteran hardliner

## Marchais back

Paris — France's declining Communist party, battling against political oblivion, has re-elected the hardliner Georges Marchais as its secretary-general. All but one of the 140 members of the central committee backed the re-election of Marchais, aged 70, who has largely ignored pleas for rapid reforms from the party's rank-and-file members. (Reuters)

## Pollution taxes

Bonn — Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and Christian Social Union parties are contemplating taxes on activities causing pollution to finance an environment cleanup in former working group said yesterday. The Free Democrats, the other part of the ruling coalition, reject such a tax. (AFP)

Cambodians to UN peace

Mandela talks

Have sought for

Wales saved

Rwanda



# Memories of relentless US bombing still haunt Laos

A GONG fashioned from a bomb-casing calls children to their straw-and-bamboo school near Tchapon, at the hub of the former Ho Chi Minh trail in the western foothills of the Annamite mountains.

In a hollow, just five yards from the tiny building full of laughing youngsters, lies an American tank of the South Vietnamese Army, a reminder of the abortive 1971 operation to cut the skin of tracks that carried North Vietnamese troops and war material to South Vietnam. Nearby, half-buried, is a 155mm howitzer, a live shell frozen in its breach. The children tear away vegetation to point it out.

Despite the physical flossing of war, the mental scars of the people who live perched on the edge of bomb craters here are healing, though some say they still do not know who was bombing them or why. Others have helped small groups of American soldiers to look for bodies in crashed aircraft.

Some say the Americans, who fought a nine-year secret war in Laos, promised to build them a hospital, but have so far failed to do so, though impoverished local authorities have cleared the ground for it. Communist officials say that because of this allegedly broken promise these people, members of minority tribes, will not reveal the whereabouts of the bodies of other Americans missing in action.

"These people say the planes come down and buried the dead," said a local administrator. "They know where more graves are but are not now inclined to say."

A drive south along one of the main rutted tracks of the Ho Chi Minh trail from Ban Dong to the village of Ban Saloy reveals what the highland minority people here endured during years of American carpet-bombing. In some places there are so many bomb craters they overlap.

In the evening, bare-breasted Mangkong tribal women smoking pipes pound grain outside their simple homes, which are often constructed on stilts made from American bomb casings. The

**Lethal debris litters the countryside where villagers bore the brunt of American carpet-bombing nearly 20 years ago. James Pringle reports**

homes are built on the edge of bomb craters which provide ready-made fish ponds where ducks swim.

At Ban Chen, Tmim (he has no other name), the village chief, said people including himself did not know who was

noted the figure down in a book. No, I did not dare ask for compensation; I did not know how to say it."

People still have bad dreams about the bombing. One man whose father was killed went mad and is still cared for by his brother, villagers said.

There are two unexploded 250lb bombs half-buried in the earth in the centre of the village. More bombs were dropped on Laos — about 1.6 million tonnes — than the total America dropped on Germany during the second world war.

The biggest American-backed operation to try to cut the Ho Chi Minh trail was launched in February 1971. Called Lam Son 719, after an ancient Vietnamese victory over the Chinese, it ended in disaster when bad weather limited tactical air strikes in support of a ground-led tank assault along Route 9, a former French tactical road.

As a correspondent in Vietnam at the time, I watched helicopters bring back dead South Vietnamese troops to Khe Sanh. The helicopters seemed to be trailing objects attached to the skirts. As they got nearer, the objects turned out to be terrified soldiers who had fled the battle zone by clinging to the underside of the choppers. Some could not resist these grass and fell hundreds of feet to their death in the forest below.

As the dead were laid out in

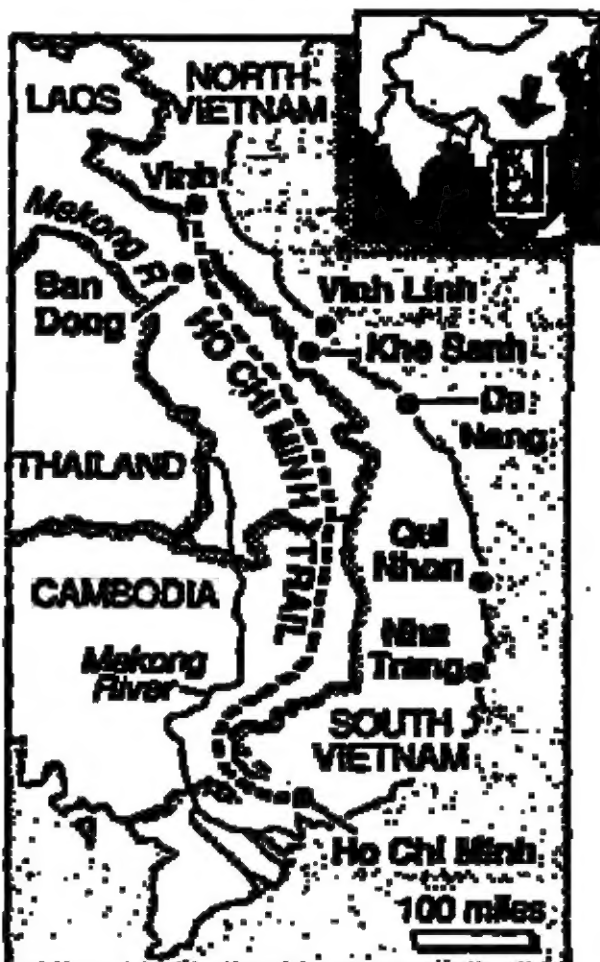
rows, American military advisers turned to correspondents and said: "They are doing a great job, our boys. We are proud of them." More than 5,000 South Vietnamese troops out of 17,000 in the operation were killed or wounded. The Americans lost 176 dead and 42 missing. In the 15 years since the war ended, 30 people have been killed in this district by unexploded ordnance. Four have died this year.

Among press colleagues who died were the British photographer Larry Burroughs of Life magazine and the American cameraman Henry Huet of Associated Press. Their helicopter was shot down over the Ho Chi Minh trail just about here.

Khamhoung Sipasauth, who works with minority peoples along the trail south of here, said 91 out of 92 villages in his district had been bombed. Highway 9 has been tarred now with aid from the Soviet Union, Vietnam and the former communist states of Eastern Europe. Prisoners in Laos re-education camps, now mostly released, provided much of the labour.

Tchepon, a district capital, has a bright new market, and a population of 5,000 mainly poor people. "This was a strategic point during the war," said Lahoun Maphangvong, a local official. "Everything was destroyed. Now we have a school and a generator. Of course, it is nothing if you compare it with the developed countries."

On the road, one sees villagers carrying bomb and shell casings to sell as scrap in Thailand. The remnants of war are one of the chief money-spinners here.



Ordeal by fire: members of a volunteer fire brigade fighting to control a bush fire, Australia's worst in 20 years, in the Sydney suburb of Allambie Heights yesterday. Areas of New South Wales were engulfed by the flames, which destroyed several homes in northern Sydney (Robert Cockburn writes from Melbourne). Three bush walkers were badly burned when they were cut off by

flames near Gosford to the north of the city. Fire services were overwhelmed as fire fronts several miles long took hold all the way up the central coast and across inland. Livestock and property were reported to have been destroyed. Melbourne and parts of southern Victoria, Sydney (Robert Cockburn writes from Melbourne). Three bush walkers were badly burned when they were cut off by

the size of golf balls damaged property. Storm-force winds ripped off roofs and littered city and suburban streets with plate glass and fallen trees. Late last night coastal communities in the far north of Queensland were preparing for the full force of tropical cyclone Joy as it moved in from the Pacific Ocean, confronting thousands of people with a bleak and dangerous Christmas.

## Cambodians agree to UN peace plan

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

CAMBODIAN leaders reached agreement in principle yesterday on a United Nations peace plan to end the war between the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government and rebel fighters, though differences remain to be hammered out on disarming the opposition guerrillas.

The tentative accord was reached in the early hours after the ailing Cambodian prime minister, Hun Sen, late on Saturday rejoined the conference of the Cambodian Supreme Council supported by two members of his staff.

Hun Sen, who is 39, spent most of the conference under observation at a Paris hospital after collapsing on Friday afternoon in the early stages of the discussions with what was described as a bad case of nervous fatigue.

The 12 members of the supreme council accepted "most of the fundamental points" of the peace plan which envisages a ceasefire followed by elections under supervision by a United Nations transitional authority, according to the French foreign minister, Roland Dumas, who co-chaired the meeting with his Indonesian opposite number, Ali Atatas.

The two foreign ministers said they were satisfied with the agreement and that it represented "progress" and

"gives birth to hope". But some key differences not resolved over the weekend were set aside and will be examined at a meeting of a co-ordinating committee of the Paris conference on Cambodia which will take place some time in the first quarter of next year.

M Dumas said the main problems to be resolved at what would be a "difficult" follow-up meeting were over how to demobilise and disarm guerrillas from the three rebel factions, the Khmer Rouge, the nationalists led by Son Sann, and fighters inspired by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Also to be hammered out is a demand by Hun Sen's government for a specific mention in a final peace treaty of Khmer Rouge responsibility for the killing of at least one million people during the Pol Pot regime from 1975 to 1979.

If all goes well, the committee meeting early next year will be a prelude to the signing of a peace treaty at a full session of the International Conference on Cambodia, grouping the five permanent United Nations security council members, the six Asian countries, Australia, Japan, India, Canada as well as UN and non-aligned representatives. The full conference last met in August 1989 but reached no decision then.

## Mandela talks anger

Johannesburg — President de Klerk and African National Congress leaders, including Nelson Mandela, are believed to have privately discussed plans for a conference of all political parties in South Africa early next year to establish the ground rules for constitutional negotiations (Ray Kennedy writes). News of the meeting on Monday evening angered congress members, as it took place within 24 hours of the ANC resolving at a conference that negotiations should not be secret.

## Habré sought for 'torture' trial

Ndjamena — Chad is seeking the extradition of the former president, Hissène Habré, who sought asylum in Senegal after fleeing four weeks ago to escape rebels.

The new government said it would set up a court to try Mr Habré, accused by human rights groups of ordering hundreds of political prisoners to be tortured and killed during his nine-year rule. (Reuters)

## Surinam alert

Amsterdam — Surinam's army has been put on standby following the resignation of army chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Desi Bouterse, according to the Dutch news agency ANP. Colonel Bouterse said he was resigning because he had lost respect for President Ramsewak Shankar, who would not let meet journalists in Amsterdam. (Reuters)

## Rwanda battle

Nairobi — Rwandan troops have killed at least 200 rebels, including a witch doctor, in the latest battle in the northern region of Muvumba, state-run Radio Rwanda said. It said some of the rebels had been consulting the witch doctor "so he could give them magic power to fight government troops". (Reuters)

## Whales saved

Wellington — Activists from the environmental group Greenpeace have used inflatable rafts to stop a Japanese ship harpooning minke whales in the Southern Ocean, a spokeswoman for Greenpeace said. (Reuters)

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# Wrap up, Mr Minister

Ronald Butt

A year or two ago, head down and in the very depth of winter, I was picking my way through the building site surrounding *The Times*, when I encountered Bernard Levin. Passing the time of day, he remarked affably: "You must be the only man in London who wears a hat."

Had my wits been less chilled, I might have indulged in some such repartee as: "You must be the only one who wears a green cloak; where do you get it, and why?" As it was, I muttered something about the cold, brooded for a moment on the curious implications of his remark and forgot it until, the other day, it arose from my subconscious after I had bought a new hat.

The old one was dilapidated, and, since grim weather threatened, I reconciled myself to paying for a new one. The decision was not taken lightly. A tolerable hat is expensive and at the mercy of the non-hat-wearers who knock it to the ground while grabbing their coats. It is also an encumbrance at the theatre, where the choice is to put it unhygienically under the seat or to join a long queue at the cloakroom. Nor does it assist dignity in a high wind, when the choice is to walk idiotically clutching hat to head or risk having to chase it and look nonchalant when it lands in the mud.

Yet for centuries (probably since the cave) men have worn more or less practical hats as a defence against heat and cold, nowadays removing them when indoors as a matter of common-sense, as well as courtesy. (The irrational female hat, which offers no protection when worn outside and is often worn indoors more to set off than to hide a woman's crowning glory, is outside the scope of this philosophical disquisition.) So what persuaded men to abandon their head coverings? Why has the sex which is more prone to lose its hair become so captive to the no-hat fashion as to let snow, hail and rain beat on its pate, where the body's heat loss is greatest?

The reason, I suspect, is the same as that which has prompted politicians to discard their overcoats: obedience to a cult of youthful hardiness and vigour proved by ability to withstand all weathers without protection. Only the Younger Fogies seem unashamed to wear the occasional hat. What gives them the moral courage to do so is that, like the rest of their attire, the hat betokens not so much practical need as their youthful rebellion against sartorial modesty.

The same is true of their overcoats and waistcoats — which brings me back to the politicians. Have you sometimes wondered at the habit of middle-aged ministers, men (say) in their mid-forties and fifties, who bound spring-heeled along Downing Street to a cabinet meeting or emerge from their ministries on a cold winter's day,

without an overcoat, with single-breasted jacket flying open and thin shirt assailed by the wind? (Nigel Lawson stuck to the waistcoats of his youth, but the appearance was idiosyncratic.)

When did a domestic television camera catch our bold and venturesome politicians coddled in a conventional overcoat (although I gather that at the Rome summit Douglas Hurd wore his green coat, which was described to me as making him look like an Austrian inkpot)? Groomed for the cameras, they naturally dress (as they suppose) thoughtfully, to show their indifference to the elements. It could be argued that the explanation is that over-heated offices and cars allow them to store enough body heat to survive ill-clad out-of-doors. There may be something in that, or in the idea that President Kennedy began it all at his inauguration.

But I suspect that the decisive fashion-maker is the camera, which markets the public image of hardness as the symbol of success. A sociological thesis is needed on the relationship between the rise of television public life and the decline of the overcoat.

The cameras have also produced that strange, half-running gait that politicians now affect, clutching their papers, they launch themselves out of their departments and into Number 10 as though there was not a moment to lose. Their speed is public witness to the tightness of their schedules, giving us to understand that they must rush from one meeting to the next without a moment to call their own. How different from the leisurely, dignified stroll of a Harold Macmillan or a Rab Butler. Even Lord Wilson's movements had a certain calm deliberation. Can you imagine Churchill on the trot to create an impression? Televised democracy, however, requires from politicians a demeanour which impresses the voters with their important busyness. Yet we might be more impressed by signs that they have time to reflect on policy and that recreation is not restricted to weekend photo-opportunities in sweaters and gymboots.

Mrs Thatcher, a workaholic, was particularly given to moving at a curious half-run, as if from one job to the next, which doubtless helped to set the fashion. She never much approved of holidays for herself or others. "How," she once asked a journalist who was going on one, "can you keep in touch?"

Well, keeping in frantic touch with everything without time to think does not guarantee wisdom. Mr Major, at least so far, seems more relaxed, and the habit of politics at the double could change. Perhaps like Chancellor Kohl or President Mitterrand, he will also appear in public in a greatcoat or even, if the weather is harsh enough, like President Gorbachev, wearing a hat.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

A Christmas evening has given me time to review the shoal of letters that over the year a newspaper columnist, at least one working for *The Times*, receives from his readers.

Before describing them can I explain to you — yes, you, the kind reader who wrote to me not so long ago — that you are the exception it is not your letter to which I now refer. It is all of the others.

Why are my correspondents mostly mad? What is it about my own writing that inspires in the nuttier, the obsessive and the paranoid schizophrenic, a sense of kindred spirit?

The *Times* room at the Commons in which I work has a corner lined with pigeon-holes for our letters. Initially the Parris pigeon hole was located about six feet up the wall. Being only 5ft 8 in, I could reach but not inspect my box, which meant that on entering the office every day, I would have to execute a vigorous pogo jump, on the spot, to check for letters. Many thought this to be a formal salutation to my colleagues owed perhaps to my childhood education in Swaziland. I was too proud to explain.

Thoughtful colleagues guessed the problem and my slot was tactfully lowered to eye level. Now I can size up my in-tray at a glance and compare it with others.

The comparison is invidious. Robin Oakley's cubbyhole is neatly stacked with impeccably typed envelopes, letters from MPs marked "personal and in confidence", and very grand invitations in copperscript; for Sheila Gunn, whose duties take her frequently to the Other Place, there will be a chatty postcard or two from a duke or duchess, holidaying in Barbados.

But my own little space? Many of the envelopes are addressed in red ballpoint, many in green ink, and the rest in a mixture of both. Often the envelopes themselves are recycled gas bills, stapled or sticky-taped shut.

Upon opening these missives, a handful of bizarre photographs clipped from newspapers, plus evidence of severe

personality disorder, leaps from the page.

Typically, the paper is (or was) a reply from the Queen's private secretary. Dear Mr Jones, I have been asked to reply on Her Majesty's behalf to your letter about radioactive emissions from your television set... and so on.

Using this as his basis, Jones has written to me, in green, in the margin, and upside down along the top, complaining about the Palace's attitude and contrasting this with the sympathy which he feels shines through every line I write.

Earlier this year, I wrote what was intended as a tongue-in-cheek essay on the inadequacy of the panda, as a serious species. Within days I was inundated with outpourings of hate against dozens of other furry mammals. I had no idea, for instance, that the koala bear could inspire such loathing.

Not long afterwards I described the problem I had had with the quality of my water supply, caused by the many mouths' presence in my loft tank of a decaying bat.

Dear Reader, I'll write to tell you what other readers found in their loft tanks, you would be on Ferrier for the rest of your life. Frankly, some of these stories betrayed imaginations of a highly disturbing nature.

Can I, as the year draws to a close, thank the man who, with the postcard he so kindly sent me, has just ended any hopes, I may have had of retaining the respect of the sorting office staff at headquarters in Wapping.

And — to the group helping for my help in the promotion of a sexual/political spiritual resistance in Nigeria please do explain that I just don't have the time.

Enough. Not all are unbalanced or unkind. Two are on my conscience still, and prompt a serious postscript to this essay.

Early on, I received a tremendously encouraging letter from a lady, then lost it. I felt mortified that she will not have received a "thank you" — so this is it. Secondly, to Richard, about to sit his accounts exam earlier this year, you gave me no way of replying, and I hope you will.

Bernard Levin delves into his Dickens and wonders how Fred would have fared had he taken his skinflint uncle's advice and gone into Parliament

# A whole bench of Scrooges

We all remember — or we should, at this time — the scene in which, on Christmas Eve, Scrooge is confronted by his nephew Fred, who has called on the old miser to invite him to Christmas dinner. When Scrooge has finished saying "Bah! Humbug!", he says to Fred: "Keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" says Fred, "but you don't keep it!" "Let me leave it alone, then," says Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"

And then comes the famous apostrophe to Christmas, in case there is any reader who does not have a copy in the house, I shall quote it in full.

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew, "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round — apart from the vacation due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that — as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

To which Scrooge retorts with a sneer: "You're quite a powerful speaker, sir, I wonder you don't go into Parliament."

Well, now, has it ever occurred to you to wonder what might have happened if Fred had gone into Parliament? To start with, he would have had to acquire a surname, because Dickens omitted to provide him with one, let us give him a fitting moniker — Warmington, for instance, or Beamish, or perhaps Wellbeloved. (Why not? There is an MP called Goodhart right now, and what is a missing e among friends?)

Very well, now whom to vote for Fred. But what party would Fred join? The first thought is that it could not possibly be the Tories; Dickens would have considered Scrooge a typical one, and he created Fred (*A Christmas Carol* was published in 1843) not all that long after the years of Tory repression and the Corn Laws. Besides, the Tolpuddle Martyrs were transported only a few years before Scrooge's sarcastic suggestion, and Fred would still have been seething at the injustice (hardly noticing, in his fury, that the victims had been pardoned and returned to England).

The Whigs, on whom the Liberal mantle has descended? Surely not. Russell and Palmerston and the rest were more sensible than the black-hearted Tories, but there was nothing really radical in their programme, once the Reform Bill was through. Certainly, Fred would have signed the Chartist petition, probably several times under various aliases, though not going so far as the — alas, unknown — sport who signed it "Queen Victoria", or the more mysterious one who wrote only "No cheese".

What about Disraeli? Fred might well have read *Sybil*, with its savage portrait of the Two Nations, and wondered whether he had found a leader there, but I doubt it would have lasted. No; Fred, MP, would have been a Radical first, last and in between. No more speculation; I can reveal

that he did indeed join a group of truly radical Members. Having taken his seat (a modest one on the back benches), Fred MP wasted no time in starting his radical career. His first task was to bone up on the procedure for introducing private members' bills; having mastered the intricacies, he got down to work. His first attempt was with a measure called The Relief of the Poor in Excessively Cold Weather (Distribution of Hot Chocolate) Bill. The Tories showed themselves hostile to the measure from the start; how right was Fred to pass them by with a shudder! As he said in his speech on the Second Reading:

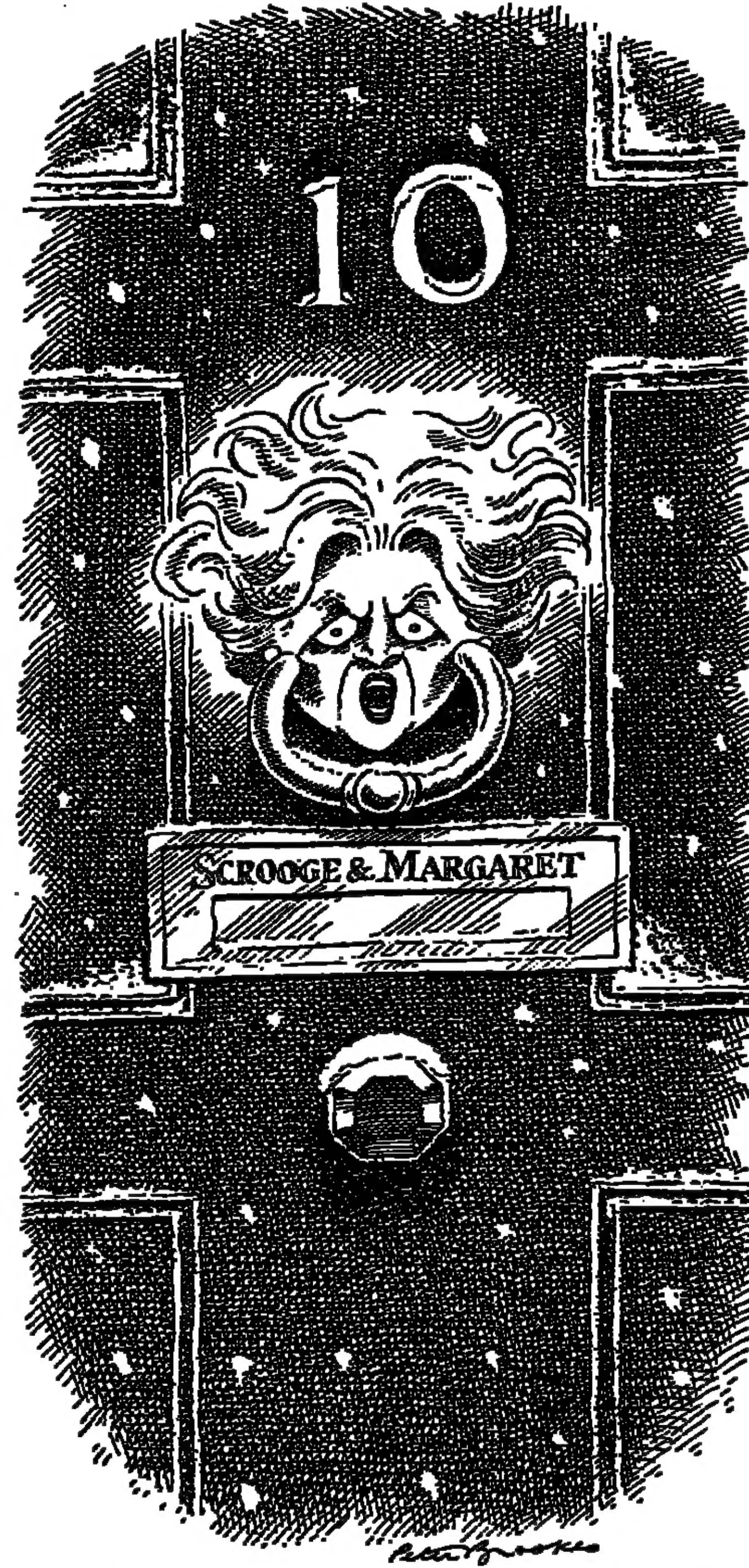
Honourable Members opposite may well recall their youth, and if they do, they will surely remember that, as they lolled in their cradles, even in the warmth of a blazing fire in their parents' enormous houses, one small wall was all it took for a nursemaid to appear as by magic, bearing a jug of the refreshing liquid, whereupon the Honourable Member-to-be fell contentedly asleep. Will they now deprive those who have no cradles, no fires, no houses, no nursemaids and indeed in some cases no jugs, of a few spoonfuls of relief from the freezing weather?

Unfortunately, the Minister of the Environment, winding up the debate, pointed out that the disposal of so much foil from the chocolate packets could be a serious hazard; people might slip on the discarded remains, and in any case the government had set its face against any more public expenditure. Moreover, his Rt Hon Friend the Minister of Health had consulted renowned experts in these matters, and was fully persuaded that — even if economic conditions permitted — it would be the height of folly to serve the children of the poor a liquid which, from the rarity of its inclusion in their regular diet, might well have deleterious effects on their stomachs. (Tory Members: "Hear, hear!")

Nothing damned, Fred shortly afterwards introduced the Snowball Fields (Free Entertainment) Bill. In his speech on the second reading he said:

My proposal would designate a number of open spaces which, whenever there is a substantial fall of snow, particularly at the Christmas season, will be temporarily reserved to those who wish to play snowballs. Of course, I have allowed for the possibility of accidents; snowball warden — to ensure that no stones are inserted in the snowballs, and that good order in general will reign in these enclosures, as well as a great deal of innocent pleasure.

Unfortunately, the Minister of the Environment, winding up the debate, explained that he had carefully examined the maps of the areas which were to be designated under the Hon Member's measure, and found that all of them belonged to Lord Howard de Walden, who had regretfully explained that he was unable to accede to such a request under the Bill. In any case the government



had set its face against any more public expenditure. Moreover, though the snow warden might ensure that there are no stones in the snowballs, his Rt Hon Friend the Minister of Housing had pointed out the danger of a mis-thrown snowball breaking nearby windows, thus seriously depreciating the value of the housing stock. (Tory Members: "Hear, hear!")

By now, Fred had realised that his mission to make the world a better place, courtesy of Christmas, would be harder than he had thought. He decided that his next measure would attract support from all parts of the House, and to this end introduced The Smile for the Festive Season (Cordiality to Strangers) Bill. By the terms of the legislation, all servants of the public, whether employed by the state or not — postmen, policemen, doctors, members of the Armed Forces, cabriolet-drivers, delivery boys and others whose calling obliged them to go about the streets a good deal — would be paid a modest bonus for every smile they directed at passers-by who were strangers to them. In the

second reading debate, Fred observed that

...a smile was always welcome, that the more smiles there were the happier people would be, and that the "official" smiles could not complain that smiling was an exhausting or unhealthy practice.

Unfortunately, the Minister of the Environment, winding up the debate, said that though he certainly did not question the Hon Member's sincerity, he was obliged to say that he did question his sagacity. In the first place, there was a very serious danger, particularly among those who had not heard of the new measure, that the smiles with which they were being so frequently greeted might be quite catastrophically misunderstood. The minister said that, for reasons of propriety, he would not go into details, but every Hon Member would surely understand what he was saying. Heaven forbid that any Act of Parliament, however innocently introduced, should lead to a breakdown of morality. In any case, he added, the government had set its face against any further

public expenditure, and he had learned from his Rt Hon Friend the Minister of Health that, according to the best medical opinion, repeated smiling had on many occasions led to lockjaw. (Tory MPs: "Hear, hear!")

By now, Fred was becoming desperate, and many of his colleagues in the House, though sympathetic to his cause, urged him to give up. He rejected the advice with scorn, and — as if to proclaim that he was going to continue with his endeavours — bravely introduced The Christmas Carols and Christmas Cards (Traditional Symbols) Bill. Speaking on the second reading, Fred said:

There can hardly be an Hon Member of this House who does not delight in the innocent custom whereby groups of young people go about the streets singing the traditional Christmas songs, and the no less innocent ritual of exchanging Christmas cards with their friends and relatives. My bill would, I hope, encourage these charming practices, but that is not my aim — both seem to flourish without official help. What I propose is that the government should place advertisements in the press, commending the singers and those who exchange tokens in the form of cards — for surely they deserve commendation — and to add to each such advertisement a few sentences which would urge readers to think of those less fortunate at Christmas-time.

Unfortunately, the Minister for the Environment, winding up the debate, said that were a number of objections to such a scheme. In the first place, those in a hurry when they saw the advertisements might not get to the part towards the end in which the charitable recommendation would be placed, so nullifying any beneficial effect they might have had. Moreover, the government had set its face against any more public expenditure. In addition, his Rt Hon Friend, the Minister for the Arts, had assured him that the standard of the average band of carol-singers is lamentably low, and that the design of most Christmas cards leaves much to be desired. (Tory Members: "Hear, hear!")

Fred tried once more, with the White Christmas (Weather Forecasting) Bill. Speaking on the second reading, he said:

As Yuletide approaches, many families anxiously scan the heavens for signs of snow, wondering whether there will be appropriate weather. (Hon Members: "Hear, hear!") In many families, a spirited guessing game ensues until, on Christmas morning, the answer is vouchsafed. My bill would harness this friendly controversy for a charitable purpose. A public appeal, funded by the government, would be mounted to urge families playing the game to wager, say, a half-penny on the outcome, with the losers paying their losses not to other members of the family, but to those organisations which, particularly at Christmas, solicit alms for the poor.

Unfortunately, the Minister of the Environment, winding up the debate, said no commendation could be given any extension of gambling, which there was all too much already, and in any case the government had set its face against any more public expenditure. (Tory Members: "Hear, hear!")

Not long after that, Fred applied for the Children Hundreds, a sadder and a wiser man, and spent his declining years trying to persuade Scrooge that his (Scrooge's) original attitude to Christmas was the right one. He died in an accident at home, when a Christmas tree fell on him.

*'By now Fred was becoming desperate. Scornfully rejecting the advice of colleagues that he give up, he bravely introduced the Christmas Carols and Christmas Cards (Traditional Symbols) Bill...'*

## Dulwich to White House...

Although the BBC is consigning Mrs Thatcher to Dulwich sitcom status in its new series, *Dunrobin*, the Americans could well cast her in a more dynamic role — to help President Bush win re-election in 1992. According to the Washington Post, the Republican party is considering inviting her to deliver the keynote speech at the party's national convention next summer.

Mrs Thatcher does owe a certain debt to the Republican party, which could be in serious trouble by 1992 if the current economic recession proves deep and operation Desert Shield goes awry. The Reagan administration, in what was seen as clear interference in British domestic politics, came to her help before the 1983 general election by making clear its view that Labour's unilateralism would undermine both Nato and the special relationship. It again helped out before the 1987 election when the White House humiliated a visiting Neil Kinnock.

But whereas Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan were ideological soulmates and adored each other, her relationship with the more pragmatic Bush were never as close. His administration set out to court Germany at Britain's expense and only latterly began to appreciate the value of Mrs Thatcher's loyalty when the Gulf crisis erupted. In the end there was genuine dismay within the administration at her departure.

Were she to be the keynote speaker, she would share the platform with ex-presidents Reagan, Nixon and Ford, all of whom might have retirement tips to offer. And she would not be

short of a gag or two. Opinion polls have shown she could win the US Presidency were she not constitutionally barred from standing because she was born elsewhere. She could perhaps ask for a constitutional amendment before 1996.

## Well spotted

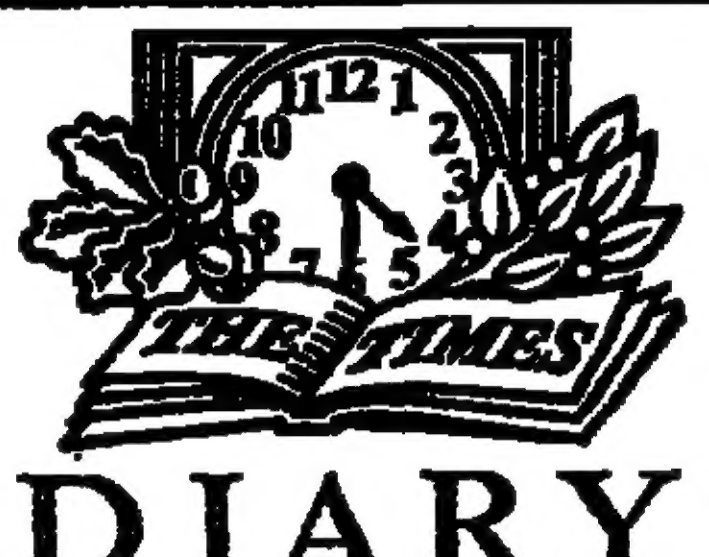
As I over the world, Walt Disney's *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* will delight young audiences this Christmas as it has every year since it was made in 1960. But the Diary can reveal that Dottie Smith, who died a month ago, wrote the book on which it was based only with the greatest reluctance.

When Jon Wynne-Tyson set up Centaur Press in Arundel in 1954 one of his first ideas was a book by Dottie Smith on dogs. He says: "She was always surrounded by dogs, and loved Dalmatians especially. I wrote to her urging her to write something — as many of her friends had done. She replied that she couldn't possibly do a book on dogs. I think she thought it was beneath her dignity, as she was then better known as a playwright."

Two years later Dottie Smith did write the book that was to make her a household name and, thanks to the film, a millionaire. Unfortunately for Wynne-Tyson, she placed it with another publisher. "My mother had a long letter from Dottie, who felt rather guilty," he says. "Had I published it, I would not be spending Christmas in England but at a winter retreat in the Caribbean."

## Just the once...

As a child, Owen Ffrangcon-Davies was taught to ignore birthdays, and she did so resolutely when she went on the stage. "As an actress, you keep your



age a secret," she says. "An actress's age is her own affair." But not her next birthday — on January 25 — which will be her 100th. Miss Ffrangcon-Davies, who was the first Eve in Shaw's *Back to Methuselah* and was still on stage (in *Uncle Vanya*) at the age of 79, will break her lifelong rule by attending a dinner in London organised by friends. "I don't know who will be coming or where it will be," she says. Given her long and distinguished services to acting, one would think she deserves something more from the Queen in the new year than a congratulatory birthday telegram.

## Tanner reborn

As cooks throughout the country put the finishing touches to their Christmas puddings, many will lament the arrival of the minuscule 5p coin, a sorry substitute for the traditional lucky shilling. For designers at the Post Office, though, the shilling is far from a thing of the past.

Alongside the black cats, golden keys, falling stars, and wishing wells that decorate next February's issue of lucky stamps, sits a shilling — curiously stamped with the date 1991. The last shilling in fact was minted in 1967. "Designers don't have to take reality too much into consideration," says

the Post Office. Fortunately cooks don't use the same licence.

## Mystery and Mrs

Forget the upheavals in Russia, our own change of leadership and the bleak economic outlook, the burning issue most exercising millions of British minds is where Jack Wooley and Peggy Archer will spend their honeymoon.

The leading lights of Ambridge are to marry on New Year's Day, but not even Peggy knows the honeymoon destination. Nor does the actor playing Jack, even though his character has already bought the tickets, or anyone else in the cast. *Archers* scriptwriters have surrounded this vital piece of information with a rustic D-notice that will remain in force until the folks back home get a postcard from Heathrow.

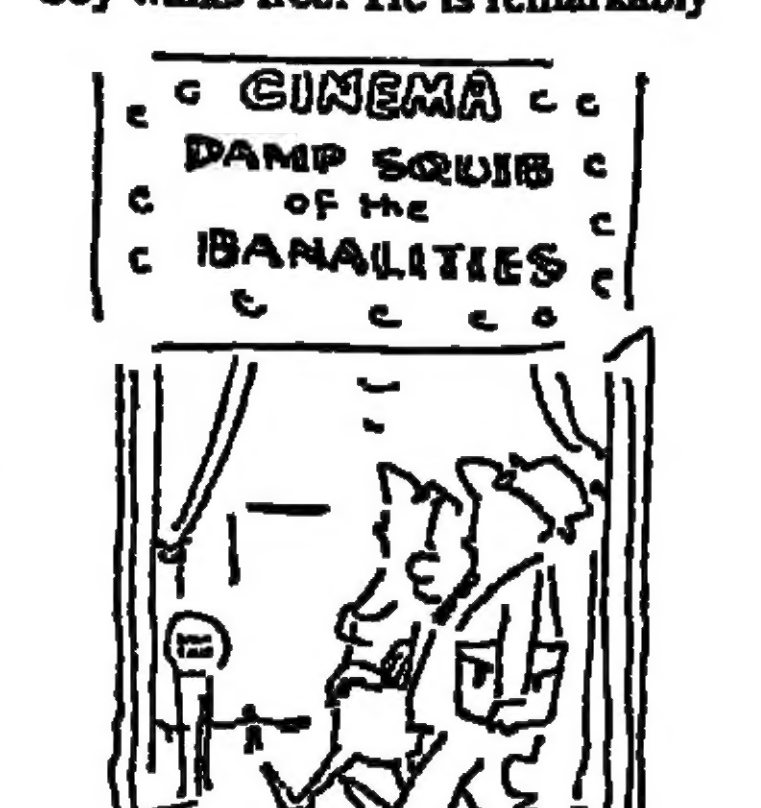
## Unreal McCoy

While New York critics savaged the film of Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities* as a travesty of the original, Wolfe himself has introduced a note of modesty into the debate. One of the objections to the film is the new ending — but Wolfe has revealed that he is not altogether happy about the way he rounded off the book: proof that even masters of the literary universe can be assailed by doubt.

The book ends with a report from *The New York Times*, a year after the main events, announcing that Sherman McCoy, the leading character, is to be tried for manslaughter. His eventual fate is left undecided. In an interview for LWT's *South Bank Show*, to be screened in March, Wolfe says: "Looking back on it, it's not a particularly satisfactory ending. I

didn't know how to end the book, to tell you the truth."

Wolfe hoped that Brian De Palma, director of the film, and his scriptwriters might do better. "If they can, I wish them luck." But Wolfe gave the interview before the New York premiere, and the critical burning at the stake. What does he say now of the typically Hollywood ending in which McCoy walks free? He is remarkably



diplomatic. "This is Brian De Palma's movie," he says, "with his own version of the plot, his own dialogue, his signature on whatever he does."

One of the *Majors*' own decorations will be missing from the *Chaquers* dining-room table this Christmas: an elaborate miniature gold castle which they gave earlier this year to an auction in aid of the Hillingdon hospital scanner. College lecturer Diana May, who paid £25 for it, says the castle arrived in a box with detailed instructions, presumably written by Mrs Major: "Mind the flag" and "Be careful to pull the castle out of the box horizontally". Bearing the instructions in mind, the *Majors* have given the castle pride of place on their dining room table — and a great talking point it will make.









## COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM**  
December 23: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Baptism of the Infant Daughter of The Duke and Duchess of York was administered during the Divine Service.

The Bishop of Norwich (the Right Reverend Peter North)

assisted by the Reverend Canon George Hall (Domestic Chaplain to The Queen), baptised the infant Princess, who received the names of Eugenie Victoria Helena.

The sponsors were: Mr. James Ogilvy, Captain Alastair Ross, RN, Mrs. Ronald Ferguson, Mrs. Patrick Dodd-Noble and Miss Louise Blacker.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr I. Barras and Miss S.E. Kendall**  
The engagement is announced between Ian, younger son of Mrs Janice Barras and the late Mr Ernest Barras, of Hampshire, North Yorkshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Kendall, of Kenley, Surrey.

**Mr N.P. Bertoli and Miss S. Adams**  
The engagement is announced between Nigel, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.M. Bertoli, of Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, and Sybil, daughter of Mrs J. McGilp, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, and the late Mr H. Adams.

**Mr Z.E. Chelmsford and Miss F.H. Mann**  
The engagement is announced between Zephaniah, son of Mr and Mrs Zephaniah Chelmsford, of Cracow, and Hilary, daughter of Gerard and Frances Mann, of Beckenham, Kent, and Balina, Co. Mayo, Eire. The wedding will take place on December 28, 1990.

**Mr S.N. Fairbank and Miss C.J.R. Sanders**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of the late John Anthony Fairbank and of Mrs Fairbank, of Bramley, Surrey, and Catherine Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Sanders, of Hempstead, Essex.

**Mr J. Hennigan and Miss S. Stewart**  
The engagement is announced between Mr J. Hennigan and Samantha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Stewart, of Chislehurst, Kent.

**Mr D. Kemp and Miss A. Frost**  
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Kemp, of 25 King Charles Walk, London, SW19, and Annabel, eldest daughter of the late Mr Henry Frost and of Mrs William Mullen, of Moors Farm, West Farndon, Daventry, Northamptonshire.

**Mr M.B. Nichols and Miss S.D. Pyle**  
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr Brian Cooper Nichols, of Hutton Rudby, North Yorkshire, and Mrs Cecily J. Nichols, of Cheddar, Cheshire, and Susan Deborah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Pyle, of Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.

## Marriages

**Mr J.G. Heywood and Lady Sophia Meade**  
The marriage took place on Saturday at St George's, Presbury, Wiltshire, of Mr Jonathan Heywood, son of Brigadier and Mrs Anthony Heywood, of Monkton House, Monkton Deverill, Wiltshire, to Lady Sophia Meade, daughter of the late Earl of Clarendon and of Catherine Countess of Clarendon, of Maitley Cottage, Oare, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

The Rev C. Fox officiated, assisted by the Rev J. Sargent.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr Nicholas Timponson, was attended by Viscount Corry, Edward and James Board, Nicholas Reid, Milo Hiseux, Kinty Timponson, Amelia Reid and Georgina, and Miranda Board, Mr Anthony Waterson was best man.

A reception was held at Rainscombe Park and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr D.J. Peniston and Miss L. Hodgson**  
A service of blessing was held on Saturday at All Saints' Church, London, SW6, after the marriage which took place on December 20 of Mr Douglas Peniston, son of the late Mr Malcolm Peniston and of the Hon Mrs Stewart, of Lyane, London, to Miss Lyane Hodgson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hodgson, of Tiverton, Cheshire. Prebendary K.N. Bowler officiated.

**Mr N. Gishorne and Miss C. Lewis**  
The marriage took place on Monday, December 17, at St Nicholas Gishorne and Miss Caroline Lewis.

Miss Victoria Lewis and Miss Lara Gishorne were witnesses and Mr Ivan Maurice was best man.

The reception was held at Clarges and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

**Dr P.J.R. Goulder and Miss V.A. Burdett**  
The marriage took place on November 29, 1990, at Durham, United States, of Dr Philip Goulder, son of Dr and Mrs Michael Goulder, and Miss Vanessa Burdett, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Burdett.

**Mr P.L. Lejot and Miss K.E. Harris**  
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 15, at St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, between Mr Paul Lejot, son of Mr and Mrs Louis Lejot, of Golders Green, London, and Miss Karen Harris, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Harris, of Marylebone, London. The Rev Christopher Phillips officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Diane Curry, Miss Miriam Harris and Master Christopher Lejot. Mr William Clark was best man.

**Lieutenant C.M. Wilkinson, RN and Miss M.J. Brown**  
The marriage took place quietly on Sunday, December 22, at Stockport, of Lieutenant Christopher Wilkinson, RN, son of the late Mr V.J. Wilkinson and of Mrs M.E.B. Wilkinson, and Miss Moira J. Brown, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas K. Brown and of Mrs Rita Brown.

A reception was held afterwards at their home in Cheddar, for immediate family and friends.

**Mr Graham Matthews**  
Mr Graham Matthews wishes his friends a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Nature notes has been held over to Boxing Day.

## Birthdays

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Lord Anson, 74; Baroness Bess, 89; Mr James Bolger, racehorse trainer, 49; Miss S.J. Browne, principal, Newnham College, Cambridge, 66; Mr Kenney Everett, broadcaster, 46; Lord Grade, 84; the Right Rev Lord Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man, 58; Miss Annie Lennon, singer, 36; Sir Peter Matthews, former Chief Constable of Surrey, 73; Sir Ismail Merchant, film producer, 54; Sir Charles Mott-Radcliffe, former MP, 79; Professor Phyllida Partridge, professor of social work, 60; Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman and chief executive, Grand Metropolitan, 58; Mr Nigel Sturmer-Smith, sports commentator, 46; Sir Noel Stockdale, life president, Asda Group, 70; the Right Rev B.N.V. Vaughan, former Bishop of Sodor and Man, 73; Sir Christopher Waters, chairman, Wates Building Group, 51; Lord Westwood, 83.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** Mr J.K. Aschroff, former chairman, Cator Group, 42; Mr A.T. Baillie, diplomat, 58; Mrs Barnes, managing director, Woolworths, 46; Mr Colin Cowdrey, cricketer, 58; Brigadier Dame Barbara Cozens, former director, Army Nursing Service, 84; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunbar, 82; Sir Gerald Elliot, former chairman, Christian Salvage, 67; Sir Nicholas Fairbank, QC, MP, 57; Mr Ernest Fernyhough, former MP, 82; Sir Safford Foster-Sutton, QC, 92; Mr Jeremy Hindeley, racehorse trainer, 47; Dame Joan Kellner, former director, WRAC, 75; Mr Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP, 54; Sir Noel Mowbray, former chairman, Save the Children Fund, 74.

## OBITUARIES

## HARRY BRADSHAW

Harry Bradshaw, Irish golfer, has died at the age of 77. He was born in Delgany, Co Wicklow, on October 9, 1913.

THE name of Harry Bradshaw is remembered for many exploits within the game of golf, but for none more than his attempt to win the Open championship at Sandwich in 1949. He eventually lost a play-off against Bobby Locke of South Africa, but not before events which have their place in the lore of the game.

With the formidable line-up of talent contesting the 1949 title few had given the Irishman much chance, though he had been five times Irish professional champion to that date. His swing seemed to purists to have an agricultural quality, while his three-finger overlapping grip dismayed the theorists of those times.

However when he was still leading an international field at the end of the two qualifying rounds the experts seemed likely to be confounded in their predictions. Nevertheless the second round was an expectant crowd saw Bradshaw pull his ball into the rough at the fifth hole. When Bradshaw came up to play the ball onto the green he found it had run into the neck of a broken bottle. He was never a connoisseur of the rules and without waiting to see whether he could get relief (as would be possible today) he closed his eyes and swung with his heaviest club at both bottle and ball. With glass flying in



all directions the ball eventually trundled 30 yards onto the fairway. But the freak accident was fatal to Bradshaw's chances, costing him a six at that hole, allowing Locke to force a tie with both men on 283 at the end of the competition. In the 36-hole play-off the South African, who went on to win the title three more times, proved far too strong for Bradshaw who went down to a crushing 12-stroke defeat.

Bradshaw had many other successes to set against this memorable loss. His name was synonymous with the Portmarnock golf club, with

which he had been associated for 40 years. He was a popular character on the circuit with his genial, jovial personality and deceptively relaxed, almost nonchalant playing style. Altogether he was 10 times Irish professional champion between 1941 and 1957, and he twice won the Irish Open, in 1947 and 1949. He had two victories in the Dunlop Masters tournament to his credit, in 1953 and 1955. The first of these was his first major win outside Ireland, achieved, astonishingly, at the age of 40, and it launched him on his international career.

He is also remembered for his three appearances for Great Britain and Ireland in the Ryder Cup against the United States in 1953, 1955 and 1957, the last occasion producing a memorable victory for the home team. The next time the United States were defeated in the Ryder Cup was in 1985 when the home team was now Europe.

Bradshaw had a long career, partnering Christy O'Connor to victory in the Canada (now World) Cup in Mexico City in 1958, though he was beaten for the individual title at the third hole of a play-off by Angel Miguel of Spain. In the same year he had an exciting victory in the PGA national championship at Llandudno when he came from three strokes down with five holes to play, to win by one shot from the local favourite, Dai Rees. Bradshaw was voted Golfer of the Year for his achievements in 1958.

## EDMUND AKENHEAD

Edmund Akenhead, editor of *The Times* crossword from 1965 to 1983, died on December 22 aged 77. He was born in September 1913.

THROUGHOUT his 18-year reign as editor of *The Times* crossword Edmund Akenhead's first care was to see that the clues and answers were manifestly fair and correct, and that the puzzle could be solved by the intelligent man in the railway carriage without reference books. This sounds simple, but it called for an immensely well-stocked mind, the patience to check every fact and reference, and the wisdom to know when his compilers were becoming too clever by half.

When he took over the editorship in 1965 he began the practice of returning edited puzzles to their compilers with detailed reasons for his alterations, which quickly produced a consistent standard of excellence from his team of 10 compilers, most of whom he himself recruited. He allowed no sloppiness of thought or expression: "As a lawyer I cannot pass IOU as meaning debt. It is evidence of acknowledgment of debt", or, "The dictionaries do not define okapi as a giraffe. The fact that it is related to the giraffe does not make it one."

He also enlarged the wit and range of the puzzle, notably by his invention in



1970 of the Jumbo puzzle, the commodious 27-letter square that appears on high days and holidays, which he compiled single-handed from the outset. In his speech on the retirement of Akenhead in 1983, Roy Dean, the winner of the first *Times* crossword championship, said of the Jumbo: "What elephantine elegance, what breadth of erudition, what excitement as the solver is led on from Shakespeare to Shaw, from Bible to Brewer, from ancient Greece to modern science, until the onset of writer's cramp

forces the pen from his fingers. How fitting that the name of Akenhead can be cited as 'A knowledge master'."

Akenhead was educated at Rugby, where he was on the classical side, and qualified as a solicitor in 1936, when he joined the family firm in Newport. After war service as a lieutenant-colonel in the Glider Pilot Regiment he took a legal post in the Colonial Service in Dar-es-Salaam, where he first set crosswords for the *Tanganyika Standard*. He became the third editor of *The Times* crossword on his return to Britain in 1965.

In his own puzzles Edmund Akenhead was a witty craftsman and perfectionist. From time to time he would compile a grid containing all the letters of the alphabet, and consider it reward enough if one perceptive reader spotted it. At the same time he would use phrases like *Wolpurgis Night* which warier compilers would shy away from as being virtually unguessable, and somehow wrest a witty clue from such intractable material. There was, too, a quality of Englishness about his puzzles, notably in his fondness for submerged quotations from Shakespeare, the Bible, Gilbert and Sullivan, Kipling and Lewis Carroll. His coat of arms, granted by the College of Heralds in 1989, incorporates a miniature crossword puzzle.

He leaves a widow and two sons.

## BASIL HENSON

Basil Henson, the stage, film and television actor, died on December 19 at his home in Sevenoaks aged 72. He was born on July 31, 1918.

FOR 44 years, Basil Henson was one of the most recognisable and distinctive actors in Britain. His career culminated in an astonishing unbroken run of 12 years at the National Theatre, where his delightfully eccentric, urbane and military manner embellished 30 productions by Sir Peter Hall, Peter Gill, and every other leading director at the National.

Born in London, the son of a professional soldier and occasional actor, Captain Hugh Henson, and his actress wife, Gladys Guy, Basil Henson's interest in the theatre began at the age of 12, when he played Portia in a production of *The Merchant of Venice* at his prep school, St. Cuthbert's. He went on to Malvern College and to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

In 1939 on the outbreak of the second world war he joined the Indian Army, serving as a major in the Royal Gharwal Rifles. He continued to hanker after the theatre, however, and when the war ended, he made his professional debut in 1946 as a most unlikely chorus boy in a revival of Ivor Novello's *The Dancing Years* at the London Casino.

His first wife, whom he met in India in 1941, died only 18 months after their wedding. He married secondly the musical comedy actress Eleanor Drew with whom he appeared in the original production of Julian Slade's *Salad Days* at the Bristol Old Vic in 1954. This transferred to its long West End run without him, as he had meanwhile been offered a role with Margaret Leighton and Eric Portman in Terence Rattigan's *Separate Tables*, in which he made his first major success on the London stage. Also in the cast was the beautiful blonde actress Patricia Raine, daughter of the celebrated musical comedy star, Binnie Hale. Henson and Miss Raine appeared together again in 1956 with Sir John Gielgud in Noel Coward's comedy *Nude with Violin* at the Globe Theatre. By then, they had fallen in love, and she became his third wife in 1959.

In 1960, Henson joined Vanessa Redgrave and Dame Gladys Cooper in *Look on Tempests*, one of the West End's earliest forays into homosexuality, and in 1961-2, he played opposite Vivien Leigh on the Old Vic tour of Australia, New Zealand and South America, during which he coped skilfully with Miss Leigh's temperamental outbursts, occasioned, some thought, by the fact that his

Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* won rave notices everywhere and was considered the highlight of the tour.

He was essentially a stage actor, but he appeared with considerable distinction in films, notably with Donald Pleasence in *Dr Crippen* (1962), with Dirk Bogarde in John Schlesinger's *Darling* (1965), with Sir Alec Guinness in *Cromwell* (1970), and with Topol in *Galileo* (1975). On television, he was seen in Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, in *Shades of Greene*, *Fawlty Towers*, and most memorably, *When the Boat Comes In*.

His appearance at the Royal Court in 1978 in Michael Hastings's play, *For the West*, led to his long reign at the National. The play visited the Cottesloe for a week, where it was seen by David Hare, who offered him the role of Sir Leonard Darwin in his play *Plenty*.

That was the first of 30 memorable Henson characterisations at the National. Others that linger happily in the mind are his autocratic Fleet Street editor, Eliot Fruit-Norton, in Hare's *Pravda* (during which he appeared concurrently in Tom



Stoppard's *Dalliance*) and his Belarius in *Cymbeline*. A close friend of Dustin Hoffman, Henson appeared with him, as the Duke of Venice, in the recent London season of *The Merchant of Venice* at the Phoenix Theatre and was invited by Hoffman to join him in the subsequent Broadway production at the 46th Street Theatre.

Until two nights before his death, Henson was appearing at the National Theatre in Trevor Griffiths's current play, *Piano*, in which he played the Colonel, a role to which he brought all the precision, authority and quintessential Britishness that had distinguished his entire career.

He is survived by his third wife, Patricia Raine, by two sons, Nigel and Jeremy, of his second marriage to Eleanor Drew, and by a daughter and step-daughter, Belle and Anna, of his third marriage.

## Richard Harries

## Moment of insight that led to belief in the incarnation

I CAME to believe in the incarnation in a somewhat roundabout way. It was not through the Bible or a sermon but through reading a now outmoded study of comparative religion.

Sitting in a gaunt German barrack block in 1957 I was struck by the thesis of Aldous Huxley's *Perennial Philosophy* that at the heart of every religion is the paradox that we find ourselves by losing ourselves; that we discover our true self by giving ourselves away. In one of those life-changing moments of insight two thoughts quickly followed. If this paradox is at the heart of every religion, then this must be the best clue we have as to the nature of ultimate reality. And if God himself is like this, then what more sublime expression of giving oneself away could there be than the incarnation, the immortal becoming as mortal and vulnerable as any other human person? The logic of thought was not the logic of philosophy but of love. If God is a God of love how can we not believe in the incarnation?

Since then this conviction has been strengthened by other considerations. In the 19th century when lepers were strictly separated from society a good number were shipped off to isolated islands. Father Damien went to work on one such island, transforming the life of the lepers by starting an orchestra, building a church and bringing hope. One day the inevitable happened and he found that he could not tell

whether his bath water was hot or cold. He began his sermon that Sunday with the words "Now I am one of you."

This pattern of Christian living has been endlessly repeated in Christian history: Father Borrelli in Naples who in order to reach the *Scugnizzi*, whom no one else had been able to help, joined one of their gangs and gained their trust from inside; the Anglo-Catholic slum priests of the last century who immersed themselves in the lives of their neighbourhood and the liberation theologians of today who know that genuine theology can only arise out of genuine solidarity with the poor. This is a pattern based on the conviction that the most valuable help is not given from afar, in a detached way, but alongside people, sharing their sorrows and struggle. Could this emphasis have been so strong in Christian history without a belief in the God who said "Now I am one of you," a God who has gained our trust from the inside as one of us; who has immersed himself in our life, who is in solidarity with us, his children, liberating our human history? Even the stress in modern counselling on sharing alongside the one in distress, simply being attentive to their pain and acknowledging it for what it is, could owe something to a Christian understanding of love defined by the incarnation of God.

Then there is the problem of suffering, which the Buddha rightly regarded as the primary question of human exist-

ence. For him the answer was found in an inner detachment from all pain and pleasure. For a Christian the approach is different: through a God who himself shares human anguish to the full and who from within the flux of human events will the end overcome all evil.

Dostoevsky asked whether God was justified in creating a world in which children suffer. Is it possible even to consider any answer which does not include a belief that God himself shares that anguish to the full, from the inside, taking the same risks as any of his creatures?

A full blooded faith in the incarnation seems quite impossible to believe. It is so much easier to settle for the man inspired. Yet the logic of love pushes us to ask not just who Jesus is, but what it might mean to define God as a God of love. It is love which makes us feel the force of Tertullian's paradox that because the incarnation is unbelievable it is absurd it is true.

A world that in 1989 looked so hopeful is now faced with the prospect of a horrendous war, unrelenting instability in the Soviet Union and starvation again in Ethiopia. The logic of divine love, which points to the incarnation, challenges us to alleviate suffering and promote human well-being. Whether things look good or bad, whether the times are propitious or unpropitious, God is with us in that task.

The writer is Bishop of Oxford

## Anniversaries

**December 24**  
**BIRTHS:** John, reigned 1199-1216, Oxford, 1167; George Crabbe, poet, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 1754; James Joule, physicist, Salford, Lancs, 1818; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, Loughborough, Leics, 1822; John Morley, Viscount Morley of Blackburn, statesman and writer, Blackburn, 1838;

**DEATHS:** William Makepeace Thackeray, novelist, London, 1863; Leon Bakst, stage designer, 1924; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1935.  
**December 25**  
**BIRTHS:** Sir Isaac Newton, physicist, Woolsthorpe, Lincs, 1642; William Collins, poet, 1679; Alexander Caesescu, Romanian dictator was executed, 1899.

Humphrey Bogart, actor, 1899.  
**DEATHS:** Karel Capek, dramatist, 1938; W.C. Fields, actor, 1946; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, 1977.  
The Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, 1620. Nicolae Ceausescu, Romanian dictator was executed, 1989.







# What price true love this year?

More than double what it was in 1980, as Robin Young discovers when he tots up the bill for 12 days of devotion

The cost of true love has more than doubled in the past decade. Any swain so love-smitten this year that he presents the object of his adoration with all the gifts catalogued in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" will be landed with a bill for £9,892.44: in 1980 it would have cost him a mere £4,657.20.

The course of true love never runs smooth, and neither, for that matter, does the British economy. But as economic indicators go, this has to be one of the bumpiest. Of course, a shopping basket that includes 184 items of avian life, stock purchased over a mere 12 days is scarcely representative. And this index is also particularly prone to wage-led inflation, since the services of milkmaids and musicians have always proved weighty in the account.

In the past it has been shown that even a few simple refinements can multiply the true lover's bill as much as eightfold. Sticking with as consistent an interpretation of the song as possible, though, the trend is undeniable. When *The Times* first did the sums, in 1973, the tally was £2,816.60, and since then its upward progress has suffered temporary checks only in 1975, 1977 and 1982.

For all the extra money, our beloved is going to be fobbed off with half-standard pear trees this year. Hilliers of Winchester, our nurseryman, no longer quotes for full standard trees (with branches six feet up the stem). Half-standards cost £16.95 each, whether they be Beurre Hardy, Conference, Comice, Packhams Triumph or Williams. In 1980 the trees cost £11.55.

Partridges are £5.20 each this year for red-legged, plucked and cleaned at Harrods. Grey-legged, the native birds, put the price up to £7. Alternatively, one could get live birds at similar prices from a game farm, or hire stuffed partridges from Gerrard Hire of London at £12 each plus VAT for seven days. But would today's true lovers be content with anything less than an oven-ready gift?

Turtle doves have been a problem since the 1981 Wildlife Act extended their almost total protection. If anyone does deal in them, they do not advertise. Christine Wright of the National Pigeon Association suggests the most economical solution would be pairs of white garden fanails, at about £10 a bird. Exhibition fanails, with smaller bodies and more resplendent fans, might treble the cost.

We have a new suggestion for three French hens, too, apart from the possibility of buying them dead at £1.69 a pound from Tesco. Sue Bruton of Codsall Wood, south Staffordshire, says that the prettiest of all French hens is the Salmon Favorolles. Ms Bruton would say that, since she is the secretary of the Favorolles fanciers' club. With their salmon-brown backs, cream breasts, feathered legs and beards, though, the birds are an irresistible attraction at £15 each. Benjamins might save you £5 apiece.

Four colly (or calling) birds we have always taken to be blackbirds. This is certainly not for convenience's sake, since the only man we knew who claimed to be licensed to deal in aviary-bred blackbirds stopped trading many years ago. They will have to be stuffed, and Brian Taylor, the taxidermist for Pettits of Reedham in Norfolk, says we can have them at £25 each. They started still life, if I can put it that way, as road fatalities.

Gold rings are £15.95 each from Ratners. Plainly this line of the song could involve limitless expense, but we have customarily taken the view that since the lady



is getting quantity (five rings on eight days totals 40 rings) she can go without quality. In 1980 they would have cost £9 each. Rather than embarrass the inamorata with possibly unwanted waterfowl to watch over we have, since 1980, opted for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's "Guard a Goose" and "Sponsor a Swan" schemes. The guardian or sponsor gets news of individual birds' movements around the world at

£12 a bird for barnacle or pink-footed geese and £20 for Bewick's or whooper swans. In 1980 the cost was £4.50 and £7.50.

Negotiations with the agricultural section of the Transport & General Workers' Union have resulted in a week's pay claim of £140.41 each for the eight maids a-milking. There are possible savings if we catch them young (under 21 their minimum is £126.37), unqualified (£122.10), or young and unqualified (£104.36).

The Musicians' Union has come up with two

new claims this year. One is that the nine drummers should be allowed £7 each per appearance for "portage", that is bringing their drums. Their minimum session fee, assuming that they are performing at a private house, is £50 (compared with £24 in 1980). The pipers are engaged at "casual orchestral" rates, £61 per appearance for the section leader and £51 for the rank and file.

There is a problem about 11 ladies dancing, since the Rambert Dance Company, successor to Ballet Rambert, our customary source of supply, is economising at the moment and does not really have that many. However, we have calculated that, if it did, at the company's average rates of pay the cost for two days would total £1,027.36. In 1980 we had them at £176 a night.

Members of the House of Lords have been known to leap for nothing in a good cause, but we traditionally allow them to charge the maximum expenses they can claim for daily attendance. That is now £26 (£11 in 1980), but if the bounders live out of London they might touch us for £68 overnight subsistence, and if they need secretarial assistance to get airborne the cost jumps too, by another £27.

Next year perhaps we should take account of delivery charges, but the price of true love seems prohibitively close to a five-figure sum already.

# In pursuit of trivial pleasure

The Victorians knew how to have a good time — but then they didn't have television

The game is not worth the candle, they say. This is a sententious old saying, originally French, which I can trace back to 1550. I'm afraid it refers to gambling. The effort is not worth the cost of the candle and his chums scrambling with their cards. We have electric light these days. And we play no games. We watch television instead.

This is a pity at this time of year. These are the times that try men's souls. For the only time in the year we are compelled to spend the idle evenings in close proximity with our nearest and dearest, and even remotest relations. The nights have seriously drawn in, so there is no escape into the garden or the park. The television schedules are even more rowdy and imbecile than they are for the rest of the year. It is considered unsuitable to curl up with a good book. And there is moral pressure to sit up to hear the chiming of the clock at midnight.

Our Victorian ancestors were better equipped for the long darkness of the after-supper soul than we are. In parlours where there was room, they played the pianoforte, and sang, and danced. And, if there is room, this is still the best solution, provided that sitting-out, though wet, is allowed. For modern drawing-rooms there are hundreds of after-dinner games, many of them going back more than a hundred years. They were invented by the Victorians.

All party games can be divided into two sorts: the physical frolicking, and the mental torment. One of the oldest of the first sort is the Acting Game, still compulsory after dinner at Balmoral and Sandringham. The most irritating players of this are the non-answerers, who are so busy acting out their petty mystery that they refuse to reply to the shouted questions of their team.

Up Jenkins is sedentary, but still physical, and liable to scratch the table. Under strict rules each side should have a captain, and anybody who obeys anybody other than the captain, by slamming her hands down on the table, or holding them up to do creepy-

crawlies, loses her side that round. I guess that the appropriate coin these days is no longer a sovereign, but the new 5p piece. It is cheating to hide it in your knickers.

I used to enjoy Tutankhamun, in which blindfolded players are guided through imaginary corridors of the great pyramid, bumping their heads on the tunnel, and flustered by bats and scorpions, until they reach the central chamber in the middle of the room. Their trembling hands are then guided over distasteful parts of the mummified corpse of the great king, until at last they are plunged into his eye, a peeled grape, or half a chilled orange.

In "Jacob Where Art Thou?", otherwise known as Moriarty, two players lie prone on the floor, as far apart as possible but holding (left) hands, with rolled-up newspapers in their right hands. Jacob where art thou? Dodge, cringe, "here", Thwack. If you hit, you get another shot. Rabbits is silly. "I saw a ghost last night" is dangerous, unless the largest people are placed farthest away from the ringmaster. Sardines depends a bit on whom you get stuck with behind the curtain for hours.

The point of these bouncing games from the days of strict chaperonage is proximity, and even holding hands, with the opposite sex. The mental torment games are just as old. *Sense and Sensibility*: "They met for playing at cards or consequences, or any other game that was sufficiently noisy." We still play consequences, in many forms of absurd juxtapositions of words and pictures. J. Caesar used the rebus game by putting an elephant on his coinage (in Punic, Caesar meant elephant — it was illegal to put a living person's head on the coinage of the republic).

Our modern Trivial Pursuit and Scrabble and the dictionary games are descended from a long line of Victorian after-dinner pastimes. They are a traditional way of passing the evening, and better than slumping half-asleep in front of the idiot box. They might even be fun.

PHILIP HOWARD

## Trembling hands are guided over distasteful parts of the mummified corpse

# The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

Test your word power in our festive competition

Concise Jumbo

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Boxing Day

## ACROSS

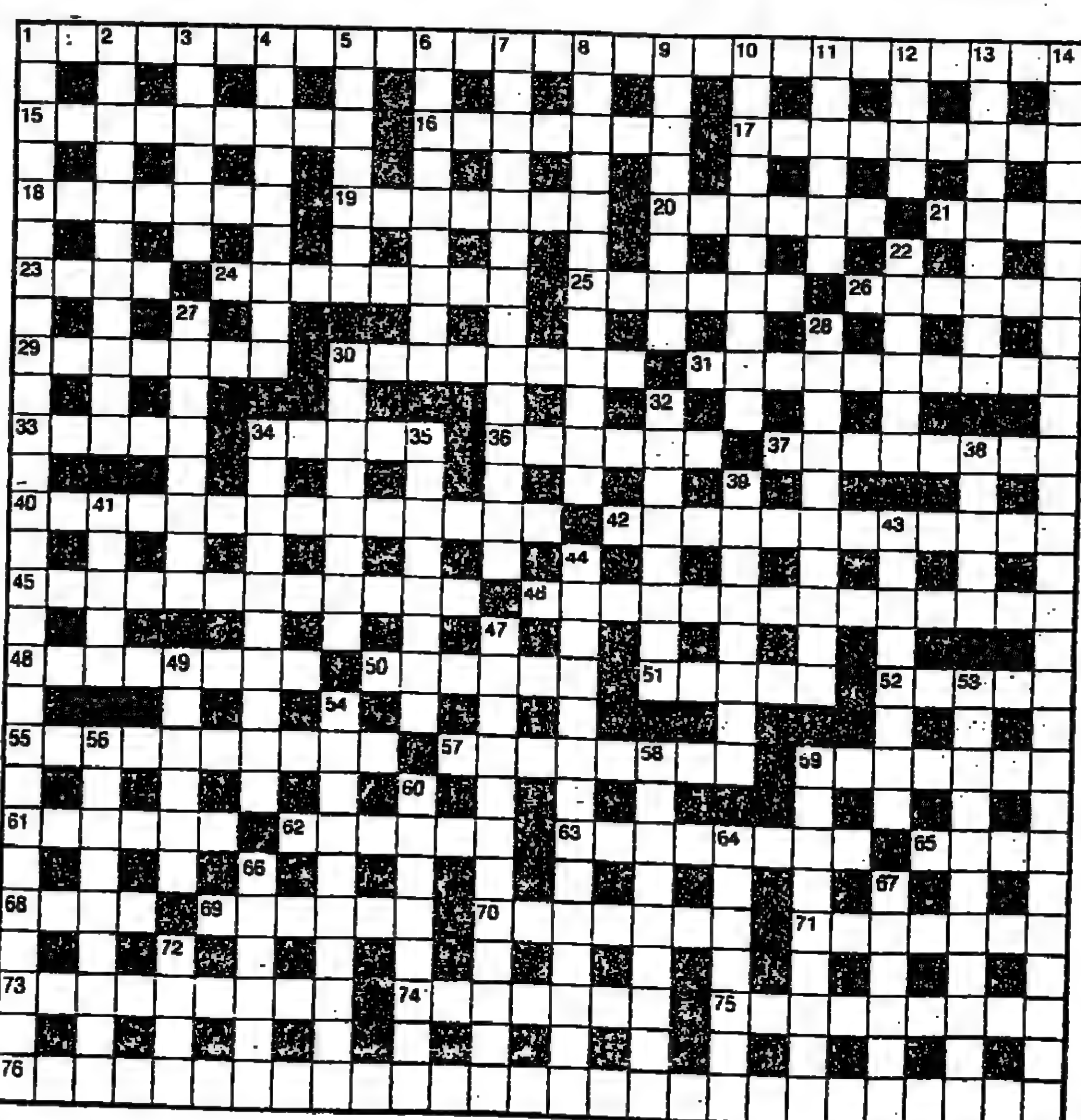
- 1 Eve had come, and Nicholas was expected (4,3,5,6,9)
- 15 Inspirational tale given revision (9)
- 16 Garland of flowers cut in part of Ireland (7)
- 17 Author's endless tome, novel composed about king (9)
- 18 Guess I'm serving American in an eatery, initially (7)
- 19 Messenger finding porter outside station (7)
- 20 Almost putting name forward (6)
- 21 Sign as a major shareholder (4)
- 22 Cloak fell (4)
- 24 Atmosphere there always is somewhat airy (8)
- 25 Native of the highlands repelled by hero of Scott's novel (6)
- 26 Having beauty queen as cleaner (6)
- 29 Before close of play, county catches tail-end in maiden (7)
- 30 Greek god on right of the temple (8)
- 31 Fixed unusually hard centre inside object (10)
- 33 An insect left in tree? Just the opposite (5)
- 34 Refuse leading part in drama — one of Rattigan's (5)
- 36 A short head (6)
- 37 Spartan hero caught by casual enemy in retreat (8)
- 40 Freedom to move in bays, perhaps, or calm sea areas (5,9)
- 42 List on this instrument? Doesn't sound like it! (7,5)
- 45 They can pick you up wrongfully in Soviet arrest (12)
- 46 Characters like Ibsen's hero guaranteeing good houses? (6,8)
- 48 Wanted when skiing, perhaps (2,3,3)
- 50 Little woman taking to the bottle gets merry (6)
- 51 Orchestra only getting half-way through chorus (5)
- 52 Even leader of guides can go astray in this desert (5)
- 55 Pursuing fellow from Lincoln, say, or East Anglian place (10)
- 57 County town needs to provide street, for a start (8)
- 59 One who's nomadic, i.e., bound to wander (7)
- 61 River sounding rather like Amazon (6)
- 62 Scattered the remnants initially in all directions (6)
- 63 A new cafe not having a place for waiter (4,4)
- 65 Maiden put in appearance for chieftain (4)
- 68 Pipes relished by Scotsmen (4)
- 69 University in reduced circumstances — Oxford or Cambridge, perhaps (6)
- 70 Are they useless for outgoing types within the House? (7)
- 71 Fishing gear yielding spiny fish, none the less (4,3)
- 73 Militant supporter happy organizing a riot (9)
- 74 As author, 'e left his input in Genesis etc (7)

- 75 Extra page in customs document's come to light (9)
- 76 Consultant's operations as recorded by his medical assistant (3,8,2,8,6)

## DOWN

- 1 Saying one desires to propagate an idea (3,4,2,6,2,3,7)
- 2 Six-footer relaxed in a Northern resort (11)
- 3 Calamitous end to flight — smoke seen rising (6)
- 4 See part of Bible in cathedral, without a doubt (9)
- 5 One fails to appreciate where the fire may be (7)
- 6 Viewer's call to consider providing time for masquerade (9)
- 7 Main area dividing the English and Welsh (7,7)
- 8 King's tax-collector, a national hero (6,6)
- 9 Deliberate changes ruin team (8)
- 10 Get hold of wine, we hear, having a bit of body (6-4)
- 11 Artist supported by bank on few occasions (6)
- 12 Author lying about Wenceslas (4)
- 13 Dominant female sat, finally, in new armchair (9)
- 14 Septet matched in musical production (5,6,3,5,8)
- 22 Fish from motorboat, mainly heading East (6)
- 27 Achieve no reforms without, say, an intimate friend (5,3)
- 28 Area of visible growth for new publishing firm (10)
- 30 Stop for strike — imports I black (8)
- 32 Message from underworld one policeman's responsibility (8)
- 34 Doctor gets a far from brilliant press as operator in theatre (10)
- 35 Impertinent person to add zest to television (8)
- 38 An opening for egoistical critic (5)
- 39 Ill-informed about king you said governed badly (8)
- 41 Take a paper again — the others are without one (5)
- 43 Ancient language swelling in poem (8)
- 44 He used his loaf to save time (4,2,8)
- 47 Mimicking it and harmonizing (7,2,3)
- 49 Draw out judge's conclusion in accordance with the law (6)
- 53 Getting our man dismissed, partly for excessive interest in food (11)
- 54 Game vehicle, look, making it here? (5,5)
- 56 Manage to get through traffic (9)
- 58 Short hop terrifies some in unusual aircraft (9)
- 59 Holder of vital liquid assets needed when cuts are severe (5,4)
- 60 Political speech from yearbook, with directions on top (8)
- 64 Dish is placed between king and emperor (7)
- 66 Patience, for one, is rewarded — by definition (6)
- 67 In card game, North ignored Michael in play (6)
- 72 Expression of support for examination (4)

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday January 7, 1991. Entries should be sent to The Times Christmas Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday January 12.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SOLUTION TO NO 2365 (Last Saturday's Concise Crossword)  
ACROSS: 1 Bow 3 Wished 6 Hansa 8 Knead 9 Lets slip 10 Aspen 12 Ego 14 School 16 Pollen 18 Mat 20 Fusty 23 Obsolete 24 Vital 25 Sheba 26 Relish 27 Bus  
DOWN: 1 Bellows 2 White 3 Waking 4 Honestly 5 Deadeye 7 Nose 11 Football 12 Elm 13 Opt 15 Courier 17 Nemesis 19 Ambush 21 Jove 22 Kebab

- ACROSS
- 1 Seasonal Crosby (2,8,2,1,5,9)
- 15 Legal distress (9)
- 16 Passage (7)
- 17 Close wicket player (9)
- 18 Give in (7)
- 19 Sri Lanka capital (7)
- 20 Editorial comment (6)
- 21 Silly fool (4)
- 23 Actual (4)
- 24 Red-muzzled monkey (8)
- 25 Verse (6)
- 26 Fuming (6)
- 29 Inflame (7)
- 30 Record (8)
- 31 Regretful (10)
- 33 Entertained to drink (5)
- 34 Articulate (5)
- 36 Come of age (6)
- 37 Woodsman (8)
- 40 Letting go (14)
- 42 Belabouring (12)
- 45 Bubbly, vivacious (12)
- 46 Not compauble (14)
- 48 Ironie (8)
- 50 Summary (6)
- 51 Weaking (5)
- 52 Old light shawl (5)
- 55 Slumbering (4,6)
- 57 Chronicles (8)
- 59 Wide police search (7)
- 61 Impecunious (4,2)
- 62 Domain (6)
- 63 Boarding house keeper (8)
- 65 Alone (4)
- 68 Accompanying (4)
- 69 Revoke (6)
- 70 Indications (7)
- 71 Black/white tit (7)
- 73 Practice session (9)
- 74 Indian bread (7)
- 75 Ding dong bell, pussy (2,3,4)
- 76 Henry VIII's religious houses suppression (11,2,3,11)
- DOWN
- 1 "Wobblers" revolutionary union movement (10,7,2,3,5)
- 2 Defilement (11)
- 3 Severe scolding (6)
- 4 Rope on main spar (9)
- 5 Perceived (7)
- 6 Superimposed (9)
- 7 Achievement (14)
- 8 Cornucopia (4,2,6)
- 9 Added up to (8)
- 10 Glass, plastic marker (10)
- 11 Involuntary response (6)
- 12 Source (4)
- 13 Prize winner (9)
- 14 Negotiations to cut back nuclear weapons (9,4,9,5)
- 22 Bracelet (6)
- 27 Horticulture worker (8)
- 28 Compensation to victim's family (5,5)
- 30 Camper's bag (8)
- 32 Prior (8)
- 34 US variety show (10)
- 35 Mourned (8)
- 38 New UK savings scheme (5)
- 39 Assurances (8)
- 41 Maximum term server (5)
- 43 German housewife (8)
- 44 Brain x-ray (14)
- 47 Fighting stick (12)
- 49 Impenetrable (6)
- 53 Italian mercenary leaders (11)
- 54 Pasta strands (10)
- 56 Lacerations (9)
- 58 Wanton destruction (9)
- 59 Consecrates (9)
- 60 Camp water pot (5,3)
- 64 Female homosexual (7)
- 66 Bahamas capital (6)
- 67 Horse/riding training (6)
- 72 Saint's circle (4)



ser, said Czechoslovakia  
united worried about the  
of a flood of Soviet  
and was working fast to  
itself. But he admitted  
hard winter and painful  
c reforms. Czechoslo-  
cannot afford to have  
s of thousands of Soviet  
camped on its territory.  
d the country might take a  
Italy's book on dealing  
upges and try to integrate  
its society. Rather than  
refugee camps.  
to case, the book would  
lovakia open its border  
e Soviet Union. But, he  
humanitarian obligations.  
Thousands of refugees  
ven refuge in the West, so  
e a moral duty to help  
too." *Continued*

## Walesa makes peace gesture

Walesa, the Polish leader, made a peace gesture by signing a declaration of intent to negotiate with the Soviet Union.

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# Three-chord wonders from the primal ooze

David Sinclair reports that the 1990s have opened with the blues, rock music's foundation, more popular than ever

In a U2's customised version of "All Along the Watchtower", Bono sang: "All I've got is a red guitar, three chords and the truth." It was one of his more inspired rhetorical flourishes, a pithy articulation of the basic precepts on which the towering edifice of rock music has been built.

The three chords in question are of course the musical bone structure of the blues, and all the gimmicky sham and adroit modern marketing techniques in the world have yet to impinge on their curiously soulful magic. In bald mechanical terms the chords are the first (tonic), fourth (sub-dominant) and fifth (dominant) of the scale; in a broad emotional sense they are the primal ooze from which modern popular music has grown.

Therefore, it may come as a surprise to discover the extent to which the blues still holds sway over the imagination of an audience assailed by the myriad of musical attractions making their pitch in the modern rock marketplace. Unquestionably the biggest concert draws in the early weeks of the New Year will be the premier bluesman of the Nineties, Robert Cray, who opens at Sheffield City Hall on January 18, and Eric Clapton's annual Albert Hall marathon (starting on February 5) which this year incorporates six blues nights.

While there has always been a specialist market for the blues, 1990 turned out to be a watershed in the genre's rapidly growing return to something approaching mass-market popularity. In terms of record sales it was the biggest year for the blues since the Sixties. On the live circuit, new acts such as Larry McCray, a bullish refugee from a Detroit car assembly line with a raging blues guitar technique and a deep soul voice, rubbed shoulders with past masters John Mayall and Rory Gallagher.

The Mississippi-via-Detroit bluesman John Lee Hooker, now 70 years old, played to ecstatic full houses at London's Hammersmith Odeon while his comeback album, *The Healer*, released in November 1989, became the biggest selling long-player in his entire catalogue.

Heavy metal guitar hero Gary Moore recruited blues veterans Albert King and Albert Collins to lend authenticity to his album *Still got the Blues*. Selling nearly two million copies, it has been the biggest hit of his career. The American television cartoon family, *The Simpsons*, called

their debut album *The Simpsons Sing the Blues*.

More significantly, 1990 saw renewed interest in the shadowy figure of Robert Johnson, the single most influential blues singer of all time, and certainly the most mysterious. Born in Mississippi in 1911, Johnson was a dapper, itinerant musician, with unusually long fingers who, it was widely believed among his contemporaries, had made a pact with the devil in order to acquire his unique singing and guitar playing skills. He died at the age of 27, apparently poisoned by a jealous husband.

Johnson's entire recorded repertoire — 29 songs together with 12 alternate takes, 41 tracks in all — was assembled for the first time on CD and cassette as *The Complete Recordings* (CBS 46222). Its release last month coincided with publication of a remarkable essay, *Searching for Robert Johnson*, by American authority Peter Guralnick (Secker & Warburg, £9.95).

According to Guralnick, "Robert Johnson's music remains the touchstone against which the achievement of the blues is measured," and certainly his mordant yelp has had a lasting effect on acts from Muddy Waters right through to English R'n'B disciples such as Eric Clapton (who recorded "Crossroads" with Cream) and the Rolling Stones ("No Expectations" and "Stop Breakin' Down").

However, comparing the crude technical quality, approximate phrasing and keen edge of desperation that distinguishes Johnson's recordings with Robert Cray's spruce, articulate, sophisticated approach, you could be forgiven for failing to recognise the two performers as exponents of the same genre. Where Johnson was a poor Southern boy with a "Hellbound on his Trail", Cray is clearly a man of the credit card era. Yet they share a feeling — "If it ain't a sad song it ain't the blues," Cray is fond of saying — and the fact that the blues can so effortlessly encompass such a diversity of experience is one clue to its longevity.

Another is its unrivalled suitability as a medium for players of red (i.e. electric) guitars. It is an old aphorism that no jazz player, of any instrument, who cannot play the blues can be considered a

truly great musician. For rock guitarists, the blues is simply the truest voice of their instrument. The essence of the blues is embedded in the basic techniques of rock guitar playing: the bending of a particular string to hit a note, the hammering on of certain notes to create a trill, indeed the very sound of six metal strings played through an amplifier are all derived in large part from the blues players' art. No wonder that, like a compass settling on magnetic north, even such mainstream performers as Eric Clapton keep coming back to the blues.

Such is the conclusion when listening to the array of blues musicians featured on two new compilations: *The Ultimate Blues Collection* (Castle Communications, CTV CD 206, released December 27) and *The Blues Guitar Box* (Sequel, TBB CD 47555). Allowing for the duplication

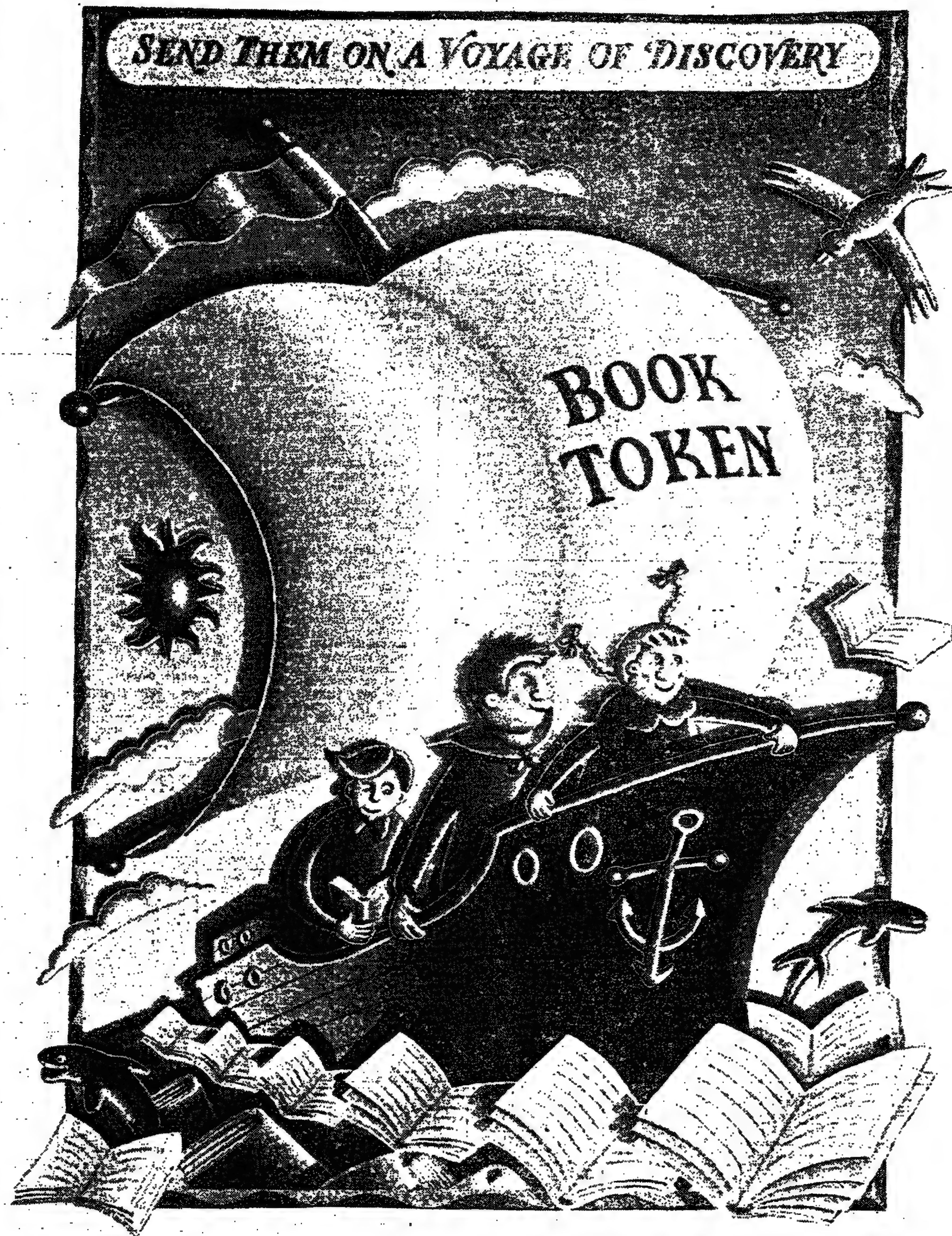
of John Lee Hooker's "Dimples" and B.B. King's "Outside Help", both sets would make a highly desirable addition to most record collections. *The Blues Guitar Box* is described in Orbiston Parva's fluent and informative sleeve notes as "a celebration of some of the finest blues musicians in the world, both the quick and the dead".

Within this triple CD (quadruple vinyl or cassette) package lies ample evidence of the conservative yet resilient nature of the blues. There is, said to say, not one woman to be found singing or playing on any of the 43 songs which encompass the mellifluous jump jazz of originators such as T-Bone Walker and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown; the superlative techno-twirling of Roy Buchanan; the studied English cool of several graduates from John Mayall's Bluesbreakers including Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor; and the post-Cray modernism of (relative) newcomers such as Joe Louis Walker and Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets.

The blues may be old enough to claim its bus pass, but it is far from done yet.



Man of influence: Robert Johnson (1911-1938), whose complete recordings have been released for the first time



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## Pretty vicious

### THEATRE

The Beggar's Opera  
Royal Exchange,  
Manchester



Like a skinhead Godfather? Russell Dixon as Peachum

WHO needs that Johnny-come-lately, Bertolt Brecht, and his *Threepenny Opera* when one can have Gay's lively prototype? True, the modern piece comes complete with the most stylishly sour music Kurt Weill ever wrote; but otherwise it adds little to the original except narrative confusion and the predictable inference that capitalism was responsible for the London mafioso, Peachum, and his army of pickpockets. Gay took a pretty grim view of the corrupt Walpole administration, but his cynicism was sweeping enough to embrace human nature as well.

For him, greed and treachery transcended gender, class and circumstance. Peachum, his gang, the highwayman Macheath and his fancy women, are all mimicking the politicians, the lawyers, the society ladies and gentlemen, and the rest of their betters.

As Gay's principal beggar says, "the lower sort of people have their vices as well as the rich, but they are punished for them." That is the opera's point, and it needs to be baited with no Brechtian *curare*. The 18th-century version is contemporary enough.

That is presumably the view at the Royal Exchange, though it is not always evident from Gregory Hersov's production, which has less bite than Richard Eyre's revival at the National a few years ago. Paradoxically, one of the evening's strengths may explain some of its weaknesses. The production does more to feast the eyes than feed the grey stuff behind them. As designed by Di Seymour, it persistently but distractingly verges on the gorgeous.

Up to a point, her 18th-century orientalism is justified. After all, Peachum is better off than Fagin, and there is no reason why his haunts should look like locations for a low-budget, black-and-white television version

of *Oliver Twist*. But as it is, he sits like a pasha on his throne, Persian carpets and Turkish drapes around him, a hookah in the corner, gold and silver in the treasure chest cut into the floor.

When the gentlemen of the road appear, the effect is no less exotic. With their earrings and bangles, their striped robes and gaudy cloaks, they somehow manage to blend the buccaneer, the gypsy, the 18th-century rake, and the Old Testament hero.

Some affect headgear beyond even Joseph in his Technicolor dreamcoat phase: turbans, feathers, and what look like mitres for Byzantine bishops. An androgynous croupier in red-and-blue silk might be a eunuch from the Arabian Nights.

That the production still retains some beef is due less to David Schofield's Macheath, who has a certain pocket-marked charisma but lacks menace, than to Russell Dixon's fine Peachum. With his bull's head, shaved scalp and mean temper, he resembles a skinhead Godfather, safer avoided.

The supporting performers are somewhat uneven, ranging as they do from Sarah Jane Morris as an aggressively pouting Lucy Lockit to Theresa Boden, rather too effin a presence as Macheath's senior wife, Polly Peachum.

When she sings, Boden is apt to thrust her upper body nervously forward, as if bracing herself to dive off the top board. But then the songs, with their folk-tunes, are not the evening's main strength.

BENEDICT  
NIGHTINGALE



## TV film choice for Christmas

Geoff Brown selects attractive offerings on holiday television

## Christmas Eve

From *Scop to Nuts* (1928): Laurel and Hardy as inexperienced waiters, reducing a society dinner to chaos. Less individual than their very best shorts, though you can't go far wrong with slapstick gags about food and social finance. With Anita Garvin as the hostess, battling against a moveable sofa and chasing a rogue chef. **BBC 2, 10.15-10.35am.**

● *Batman and Robin* (1949): First instalment of the 15-part series: mercifully far livelier than the 1943 adventure screened last year. With Robert Lowery, directed by serial specialist Spencer G. Bennett. Daily over the holiday at the same time. **Channel 4, 10.25-10.55am.**

● *La Traviata* (1982): Zeffirelli's fast, furious and resplendent version of Verdi's opera, shot with bold colour filters and sets swamped in 19th-century clutter. Fiery performances from Teresa Stratas and Plácido Domingo; and for once the impassioned music gets images to match. **BBC 2, 3.15-5pm.**



20th-century Fox: Michael J. Fox appears on *Boxing Day*, 6.05pm

● *A Passage to India* (1984): David Lean copes well enough with the surface comedy of Forster's novel about the unsettling British defeat the doctor. Peggy Ashcroft is memorable; the Indian characters (Victor Banerjee, Alec Guinness) verge towards caricature, and Maurice Jarre's hideous music seems to have strayed from an airport lounge. **BBC 2, 6.40-8pm.**

● *Blind Date* (1987): Tired slapstick comedy from the uneasy period before *Die Hard* established Bruce Willis's big-screen persona: the *Moonlighting* star plays a financial analyst whose life unravels after a night with a blind date (Kim Basinger). The odd sight-gag pleases; music is also dismay. Director, Blake Edwards. **BBC 1, 9.50-11.25pm.**

● *Rain Man* (1988): A Hollywood stab at seriousness, though it's also a vehicle for two star turns from Tom Cruise (a callow young hustler) and Dustin Hoffman (the autistic brother whom he tries to trick out of a \$3 million inheritance). Director Barry Levinson keeps the flimsy storyline moving. **BSB Movie Channel, 10pm-12.25am.**

● *This Is Spinal Tap* (1983): Delicious parody of rock documentaries, charting the disastrous American tour of a veteran British band of the heavy metal persuasion. The satire could easily have fizzled out into repetitive caricature, but director Bob Finkel and his fellow actor-writers hit their targets with wicked precision. **BBC 2, 11.25pm-12.45am.**



Small-screen terrestrial premiere: *E.T.*, Christmas Day, 3.05pm

## Christmas Day

● *E.T.* (1982): The afternoon is planned for you: you pile into your dinner, you watch the Queen, then you watch the Extra-Terrestrial, ranking the heart-strings in Steven Spielberg's hugely successful tale of a lonely boy and a lonely alien. Simple material, superbly mounted. The first television showing anywhere in the world (though I cannot vouch for Outer Space). **BBC 1, 3.05-5pm.**

● *Moonraker* (1979): James Bond versus an urbane madman with the usual plans for global conquest. Routine Bondage, with Roger Moore scattering tired jokes amidst the chases and wildly flung scenery. Michael Lonsdale as the villainous billionaire Drax, and Bernard Lee making his last appearance as "M". Director, Lewis Gilbert. **ITV, 3.05-5.25pm.**

● *It's a Gift* (1934): 44 years ago, W. C. Fields died on Christmas Day (an occasion he loathed), so he might have been tickled by Channel 4 filling out the afternoon with his most misanthropic comedy. No plot to speak of: just a chain of wonderful, acidic sketches of hen-pecked family life. With Kathleen Howard as Fields' terminally ill wife, Charles Sellen as the blind curmudgeon Mr. Muckle, T. Roy Barnes as the smiling man who disturbs Fields' peace looking for Karl LaFong. A film to treasure. **Channel 4, 3.30-4.45pm.**

● *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* (1988): Terry Gilliam's period fantasy, with John Neville as the legendary German baron who travels all over, from the moon to the underworld. A lavishly decorated curate's egg. **BSB Movie Channel, 5.45-8pm.**

● *The Snowman* (1982): The popular animated version of Raymond Briggs' tale; makes you want to have flying dreams all over again. Director, Dianne Jackson. **Channel 4, 6-6.30pm.**

● *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988): Fearlessly clever, initially hilarious, and a technical triumph, but to these old eyes the magic soon palls: the pell-mell pace becomes monotonous, and Roger Rabbit - the cartoon character who hires gumshoe Bob Hoskins to clear his name of murder - makes a shrill, unlikeable star. **Sky Movies, 6-8pm.**

● *Beverly Hills Cop II* (1987): Mechanical sequel to the 1984 original, full of screeching tires, loud music, tired situations, and jabbering patter from Eddie Mur-

phy, lacking punch or wit. With Judge Reinhold; directed by Tony Scott. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987): The puffing story tells us nothing new about the Vietnam war; but the film is carried by Robin Williams' performance as the live wireman shaking up the airwaves of the American Armed Forces radio. **Sky Movies, 8-10pm.**

● *Jean de Florette* (1986): Gérard Depardieu as the novice farmer in Provence, determined to make a success of his land, while Yves Montand and Daniel Auteuil engineer his failure. Absorbing, marvellously atmospheric version of Marcel Pagnol's novel; cinematic story-telling of a high order from director Claude Berri. **BBC 2, 8.20-10.20pm.**

● *Baby Boom* (1987): Old-fashioned comedy on fashionable topics, with Diane Keaton as a power-hungry careerist whose life is thrown into chaos by the arrival of an apple-cheeked baby. Cute and calculating, though the rosy glow of Christmas might help it pass muster. **BBC 1, 9.45-11.30pm.**



W.C. Fields: *Boxing Day*, 3.30pm

● *Notorious* (1946): Archetypal Hitchcock thriller, pitting a female counter-spy against a Nazi household with a cellar full of bottled uranium. Inmaculate performances, particularly from Ingrid Bergman (perplexed and beautiful), and Claude Rains (such a purring, sympathetic villain). **BBC 2, 11.30pm-1.10am.**

● *Scandal* (1988): The 1963 Profumo-Keeler business, exhumed in a spirit of muted outrage rather than muck-raking glee. Ian McKellen as politician Profumo; Joanna Whalley as good-time girl Keeler; best of all, John Hurt as the osteopath scapegoat Stephen Ward. A strange way to end Christmas Day. **BSB Movie Channel, 12pm-2am.**

● *Range* (1988): Sleek blend of ghost story and romance from Hong Kong's Stanley Kwan. A fetching performance by Anita Mui as the prostitute who returns to earth 50 years after committing

suicide in a lovers' tryst; though the main pleasure lies in the heady recreation of opium-den decadence and the aching sense of love's transience. **Channel 4, 12.15-2.05am.**

## Boxing Day

● *Return to Oz* (1985): Not for the tinier tots, for this return visit favours a downbeat, nightmare mood. Opening scenes of Dorothy escaping from her Kansas sanatorium are well-staged; after that the film succumbs to the special-effects fidgets, and Fairuzza Balk makes an annoyingly sullen heroine. **ITV, 12.30-2.30pm.**

● *International House* (1932): Seeing is supposed to be believing, though the saying breaks down with this crazy comedy mostly set in WuHu, China, where a doctor has perfected television. A strange bundle of performers fitter away the first half (Bel Lugosi, Burns and Allen, contemporary celebrity Peggy Hopkins Joyce). Then W.C. Fields takes the film by the scruff of its neck. Result: delirium. **Channel 4, 3.30-4.30pm.**

● *Bacon Grabbers* (1929): Twenty minutes of simple joy, as Laurel and Hardy attempt to serve Edgar Kennedy with a summons. Blink towards the end, and you might miss Jean Harlow. **BBC 2, 3.35-3.55pm.**

● *Back to the Future* (1985): The saga starts here, with Michael J. Fox being whisked back to 1955, where fashions - and his parents - were far different. The jokes fun; if only Spielberg's production team could resist the temptation to inflate the material beyond its natural limit. **BBC 1, 6.05-8pm.**

● *A Cry in the Dark* (1988): Meryl Streep with a blunt haircut and Aussie accent as Lindy Chamberlain, the mother in the "dingo baby" case, bizarrely convicted of murdering her own child. Handsome if shallow recreation, directed by Fred Schepisi; with Sam Neill. **BSB Movie Channel, 8.10-10pm.**

● *Dirty Dancing* (1987): On holiday in the Catskills in the early Sixties, a spoiled teenage girl learns a few facts of life, along with dance movements that would not meet with Victor Sylvester's approval. A huge hit, particularly on video, securely targeted at teenagers. With Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze. **ITV, 8.50-9pm.**

● *Manon des Sources* (1986): Or *Jean de Florette Part 2* - less of a piece than the first instalment (Emmanuelle Béart, as Jean's daughter Manon, seems entirely too modern in looks), though the story concludes with satisfying dramatic irony. **BBC 2, 8.50-10pm.**

● *Requiem for Dominic* (1990): Masterly, red-hot drama torn from the headlines of last year's revolt in Romania, filmed some weeks afterwards by adventurous director Robert Dornhelm (born in Timisoara). The film pursues his own attempt to clear the name of a childhood friend led to die as a traitor, covered in a net and tied to a hospital bed. Exciting television footage is expertly blended with recreated scenes; a powerful mix. **Channel 4, 11pm-12.40am.**

● *Suspicion* (1942): Joan Fontaine as the jittery wife who for or may not have married a murderer. Minor Hitchcock with pleasing touches, like Cary Grant's staircase ascent, carrying an eerily blazing glass of milk. Try to ignore the enforced happy ending. **BBC 2, 11.35pm-1.10am.**

## CURRENT

● *AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE* (1989): James Cameron's excellent film about the New Zealand war poet. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *BLUE STEEL* (1989): Tough, blood-soaked police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow. **Channel 4, 8-10pm.**

● *COME SEE THE PARADISE* (1989): Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American treatment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor. **Channel 4, 8-10pm.**

● *THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS* (1989): Robert Farrow and Nicholas Richardson meeting around Venice, telling story to the viewer Christopher Walken. **Channel 4, 8-10pm.**

● *DARWIN* (1989): Liam Neeson as a disgraced scientist seeing revenge on the criminal responsible. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *FLATLINERS* (1989): Kiefer Sutherland, John Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students crossing the boundaries between death and life. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *THE HOT SPOT* (1989): Raging sexual war and duplicity in a New York town, directed by director Dennis Hooper. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *THE FREEMAN* (1989): Quirky, uneven story of The Godfather, with Martin Scorsese as the director. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *GHOST* (1989): Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *BOOKENDS* (1989): Disappointingly empty tale of two literary debacles. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *THE BOYS NEXT DOOR* (1989): Tom Griffin's pastime view of a New York film. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *THE COUNTRY WIFE* (1989): Apollonia Healy as a woman in a New York film. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *FIVE GUYS NAMED Moe* (1989): Moe's jolly view of a New York film. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *GASLIGHT* (1989): Anne Castellan's superbly atmospheric production of Patrick Hamilton's thriller. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *THE REHEARSAL* (1989): John Gorton's film about the life of a New York film. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

● *THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW* (1989): Richard O'Brien's film about the life of a New York film. **ITV, 8-10pm.**

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

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● *THE EVERETT STORY PART 2* (1989



**CHANGE 1**

8.00 Bobby Jones Gospel (?)  
6.30 The Art of Landscapes? 7.00 Thomas' Great Adventure (?)  
9.25 Crossstalk... Current affairs and controversial subjects are discussed by a studio audience. #m1-2; to 16-year-olds  
9.25 Christmas Eve on Sesame Street  
10.25 Film: Batman and Robin (1946). See Television Film Choice for Christmas on page 14  
10.55 Christmas Without Snow. R.S.mos presents an analysis of Christmas using his own verse plus three unpublished poems  
11.25 Christmas Time. Theatrical sketches  
12.30 A Family of Flowers. A documentary about the orchid, the flower that boasts more than 30,000 ant species (?), (Teletext)  
1.30 Nigel Kennedy Plays The Fousons. This work by Vivaldi is one of classical music's misnomered sets of pieces and benefits from the lively peasant style of the young maestro who is accompanied by, eruductus, the English Chamber Orchestra  
2.30 Film: Camelot (1967). Overlapped version of the Lerner and Loewe musical about the storying Arthur and Guinevere. The film contains Oscar-winning art direction and music directed which it is handsomely photographed, but the principals Richard Harris and Vanessa Redgrave more convincingly than they sing. With Franco Nero. Directy Joshua Logan  
5.45 Billy the Fish. Omnibus versal the cartoon character who antagonized the popular adult magazine Viz (?)  
6.00 A Grand Day Out  
● CHOICE: A film by Nick Parloese plasticine figures featured in Channel 4's recent animationse, gets its first television showing to complement satckabished seasonal treats as *Gnaps* and *The Showman*. Partly due he shows have the delicacy of *Snowman*, because even see three-dimensional, and his narrative is not as neatly structd But he shows plenty of visual invention in telling the simple of a man and his dog and an eventful trip to the moon in seant cheese. Much of the charm of the work, made while Park weste National Film School, lies in the juxtaposition of exotic scene everyday. The journey of a lifetime is undertaken in a 2-hemede space rocket cobbled together overnight from odds I ends and it is spent making toast, reading a newspaper andusing a house of cards.



**Father and daughter?:** Rossano Brazzi, Charlie Lunghi (8.00pm)

9.00 **The Ruth Rendell Mystery Movie: Put On By Cunnning.**  
**CH CHOICE:** Television was strangely slow to exploit the Chief Inspector Wexford stories, but they have become the most satisfying form of small screen whodunit, far transcending the strained period pastiche of *Marseille* and *Porridge*. The reasons include Rendell's ability to provide not only satisfying puzzles but also believable characters rooted in the real world and the inspired casting of George Baker as the solid, gruff Wexford, who may be a plodder but is rarely lonely. Tonight's feature-length story has Wexford investigating the death of a famous musician, played by veteran cinema heart-throb Rossano Brazzi. Drowning in his own lake, he leaves behind a much younger fiancée (Janet Maw) and a daughter (Cherie Lunghi) who may not be what she seems. With a well-written script from the experienced Trevor Preston, the mystery is nicely solved, helped along by Geryl Reed as a dotty old aunt. (Oracle)

11.00 **News with Trevor McDonald.** (Oracle) Weather

11.15 **After Henry.** A Christmas edition of the gentle comedy starring Prunella Scales, Joan Sanderson and Janine Wood (r)

11.45 **Midnight Mass** celebrated by Father Dermot O'Gorman at St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Coventry

12.40am **Film: Somebody Killed Her Husband (1978)** starring Fanny Ardant and Charles Berling. A rapid drama, the first starring feature for the former *Charlie's Angels*, in which she plays a bored wife of an uninterested husband who falls for the charms of a toy salesman. Then her unloved husband is found dead. Directed by Lamont Johnson

2.30 **Film: The Electric Horseman (1979).** Robert Redford barely succeeds in passing himself off as a drunken and desperate ex-rodéo star resigned to promoting breakfast cereals until he decides to kidnap a 12 million dollar stallion. He is pursued by a television newscaster (Jane Fonda) who sees the makings of a star. Directed by Noel Streatfeild

4.40 **Film: A Christmas Carol (1985).** Animated version of Dickens's classic, directed by Warwick Gilbert

5.55 **ITN Morning News.** Ends at 6.00



8.00 Brookside. Suburban Liverpool. (Teletext)  
8.30 The Wonderful World of Dogan An Iranian film by Australian director Mike Lewis, exploring pop's ethnic overtones gods (r)  
9.30 The Resurrection of the Moonlight A musical in popularity only to Handel's Messiah, and the concolor Christopher Hogwood has assembled an orchestra anachronus of a similar size and configuration as at the work's first performance. Soloists are Emma Kirkby, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Michael George, and the performance was arising for television in Gloucester Cathedral  
11.30 The Other Side of Gerry Sadzitz. Offensive comedian Gerry Sadowitz continues his unpleasant alternative guide to magic  
11.45 Chinese Ghost Stories. Introduced by Jonathan Ross. Film: Zu Warriors (1983). Tsui Hark's remote action fantasy depicts thrilling encounters between males, the gods and the forces of good and evil in the mythical laia of Zu. Directed by Tsui Hark  
1.40am Birthday. Judi Dench reads selection of poetry by a retired Lakeland priest. The Rev Alan Ealesone (r). Ends at 2.00


2. *Overboard* (1988): Goldie Hawn stars as rich bitch suffering from amnesia.

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# The

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**7.00** Witzbit: Magical adventures in Puzzeopolis with Paul Daniels (7)  
**7.30** Playdays (7) 7.30 Bell Rap  
**8.10** Film: The Looney, Lay, Looney Bugs Bunny Movie (1981). A compilation of Bugs by cartoons celebrating the careers of the cartoon rabbit and his friends. Followed by Weather  
**9.30** Shout for Joy: Benjamin and his friends join the congregation at St Francis Church, Heath, to celebrate Christmas Day Mass.  
**10.30** Noel's Christmas Party: Noel Edmonds distributes Christmas gifts around the world, serving soups, sides and abetted by Arthur Bostrom, Frutino and David Essex.  
**11.30** 'Allo 'Allo! A chance again to see the very first programme of the comedy series set in a Nazi-occupied France, starring Gordon Kaye. The show has been changed (Ceebox)  
**12.05** The Two Ronnies: Much-missed little and large in a selection of their brilliantly stoned classic sketches, plus spoof news bulletins. With guest Collins (7)  
**12.55** Dad's Army: Sublimely funny comedy from the pompous Captain Mainwaring (Lowe) and his eccentric irregulars. In this episode they tried in vain to help with the war's bazaar to raise money for the troops (7)  
**1.30** Top of the Pops: Christmas Special. Mark Goodier and Anita Turner look back at hits of 1990 and some of the tracks of Christmas past. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1  
**2.30** EastEnders (Ceebox)  
**3.00** The Queen: Her Majesty speaks to the Commonwealth. (Ceebox)  
**3.05** Film: ET (1982). See television film choice for Christmas on page 5

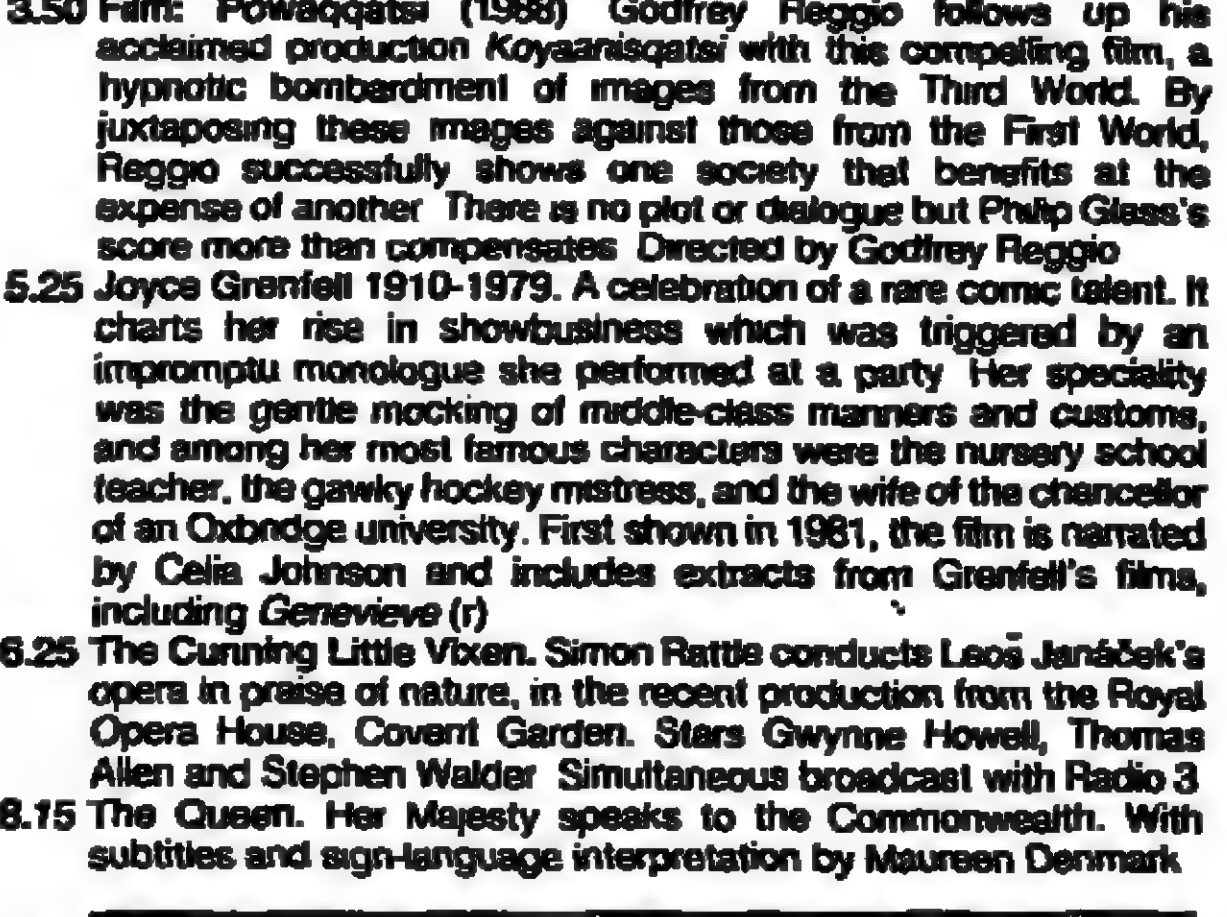
**5.00** News with Jill Dando (Ceebox) Weather



Separators: Nicholas Lyndhurst and Gwyneth Strong (5.10pm)

**5.10** Only Fools and Horses... Rodney Comes Home.  
 CHOICE: Future films of popular culture may have a field day picking over a British Christmas Day schedule dominated by comedies about a big trader, a family of social security scroungers and the way the imprisoned criminals. The ratings of *Only Fools and Horses*... *Bread* and *Birds of a Feather* may be justified enough to not explain why so many people should find low life stories so funny. It is the way they tell them. *Only Fools and Horses*... the series of the three and already well established as a Christmas Day special. The writer, John Sullivan, has never found difficulty filling a longer slot and his latest offering maintains the standard following the recent trend of the series, much of the comedy run off the female attachments as Rachel moves in with Del (John) and Rodney (Nicholas Lyndhurst) walks out on Cassini (Ceebox)  
**6.25** Bruce Forsyth's Christmas Generation Game. Bruce invites more family couples to make fools of themselves in the inimitable game show with the help of Rosemary Ford (Ceebox)  
**7.30** Bread. Christmas edition of Carla Lane's comedy about a resourceful Liverpool lady (Ceebox)  
**8.20** Birds of a Feather: Fred in Love Again. Uninhibited comedy by Laurence Maize and John Green about two sisters with a husband. Sharon (Pete Quince) must try to get to Berlin and lay her hands on husband's (Peter Polycarpou) bubble car, so that he can sell it as a payoff of gambling debts to the vicious McCarthy brothers. As a guest appearance by Leslie Crowther as a game show host (Ceebox)  
**9.25** News with Jill Dando (Ceebox) Weather  
**9.45** Film: *Batman Returns* (1992). See television film choice for Christmas on page 14  
**11.30** Yes Minister: Party time. Yet another comic classic is pulled out of the archives about Eddington and Nigel Hawthorne play more political games wiled by writers Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn. Christmas features are in full swing at the Ministry of Administrative Affairs in a new classic. The excellent supporting cast includes Max Von Sydow, Alec Guinness and Robert Helpmann. Edited by Michael Anderson. (Ceebox) 2.20  
**Weather**

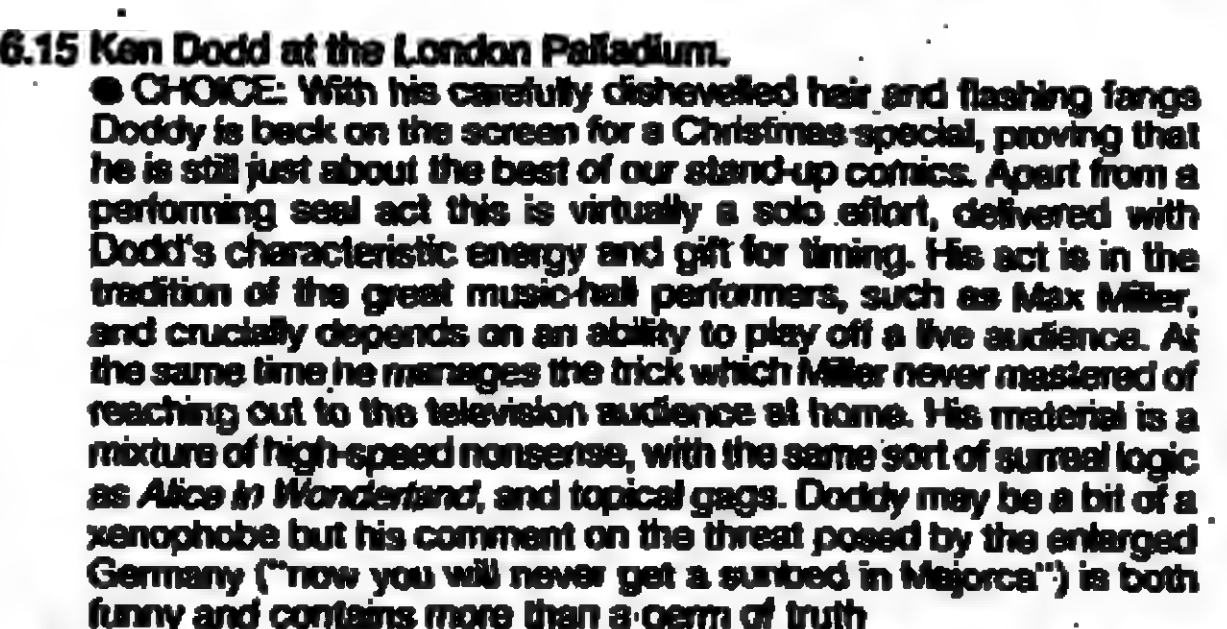
**BBC 2**  
**8.00** Film: Summer Holiday (1948). Stars Mickey Rooney, Gloria De Haven and Walter Huston. Not the Christmas bus excursion, but a musical adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's play. An unemployed telling the story of a young man who decides to make his family story his own with a local girl is run by her accusing father. Good numbers and polished playing by director Rouben Mamoulian fails to impose his usual style  
**9.30** Film: Watership Down (1978). Animated cartoon adapted from the best-selling novel by Richard Adams. A group of rabbits, seeking a place to live, encounter many dangers along the way. One of the best non-Disney animated features. It is both enjoyable and emotional, though youngsters will find some of its scenes frightening. Benefits from an excellent score from Angela Holden of Art of Noise and the theme, "Bright Eyes", which was an international hit for Art Garfunkel with the voices of John Hurt, Richard Briers, Hannah Gordon and Roy Kinnear. Written, produced and directed by Michael Rosen. (Ceebox)  
**11.00** Gotta Dance, Gotta Sing. John Hartman narrates a history of the movie musical. The many clips include Al Jolson in *The Jazz Singer*, the flamboyant routines of Busby Berkeley and the outrageous *Rocky Horror Show* (7)  
**11.45** The Famous Teddy Bear. Season's Greetings from Al Floss. Lame American comedy about a toy designer's meteoric rise in the film agency's success. Stars John C. Reilly  
**12.10** Beethoven Symphonies. Roger Norrington conducts the London Classical Players in a performance of Symphony No 3 in E Flat, Op 55, the Eroica  
**1.00** Drift, The Mute Swan. Simon King's delightful documentary that drifts and drifts and drifts, who live and breed on the Somerset Wetlands but in their existence as tranquil as it appears. Narrated by John King (7)  
**2.00** Christmas Day Concert. Chris de Souza introduces the traditional live concert from the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam. Riccardo Chailly conducts Liszt's Faust Symphony. With tenor soloist Hans-Peter Blochwitz and the Netherlands Radio Choir  
**3.10** Animation Now: Try Again and Succeed. Orson Welles narrates the story of a young eagle chick leaving the nest  
**3.20** Henry Moore and Landscape. A study of the relationship between sculpture and nature  
**3.50** Film: *Prozac Nation* (1989). Godfrey Reggio follows up his acclaimed production *Koyaanisqatsi* with the compelling film, a hypnotic bombardment of images from the Third World. By juxtaposing these images against those from the First World, Reggio successfully shows one society that benefits at the expense of another. There is no plot or dialogue but Philip Glass's score makes a powerful statement  
**5.25** Joyce Grenfell 1910-1979. A celebration of a rare comic talent. It charts her rise in showbusiness which was triggered by an impromptu monologue she performed at a party. Her speciality was the gentle mocking of middle-class manners and customs, and among her most famous characters were the nursery school teacher, the glibly hockey mistress, and the wife of the character of an Oxford university. First shown in 1981, the film is narrated by Celia Johnson and includes extracts from Grenfell's films, including *Genevieve* (7)  
**6.25** The Cunniff Little Vixen. Simon Rattle conducts Leos Janacek's opera in a production of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Stars Gwyneth Howell, Thomas Allen and Stephen Waller. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3  
**8.15** The Queen. Her Majesty speaks to the Commonwealth. With subtitles and sign-language interpretation by Maureen Denmark



Engineers of failure: Daniel Auteuil (left), Yves Montand (8.20pm)

**8.20** Film: *Jean de Florette* (1986). See television film choice for Christmas on page 14  
**10.20** Amnesty International Benefit Concert. Highlights from the concert held in Chile, featuring Chilean groups Congreso and Inti Iluminado and international pop stars Sting, Peter Gabriel, Jackson Browne and Sinead O'Connor  
**11.30** Film: *Notorious* (1946, b/w). (Ceebox) See television film choice for Christmas on page 14  
**1.10** Weather

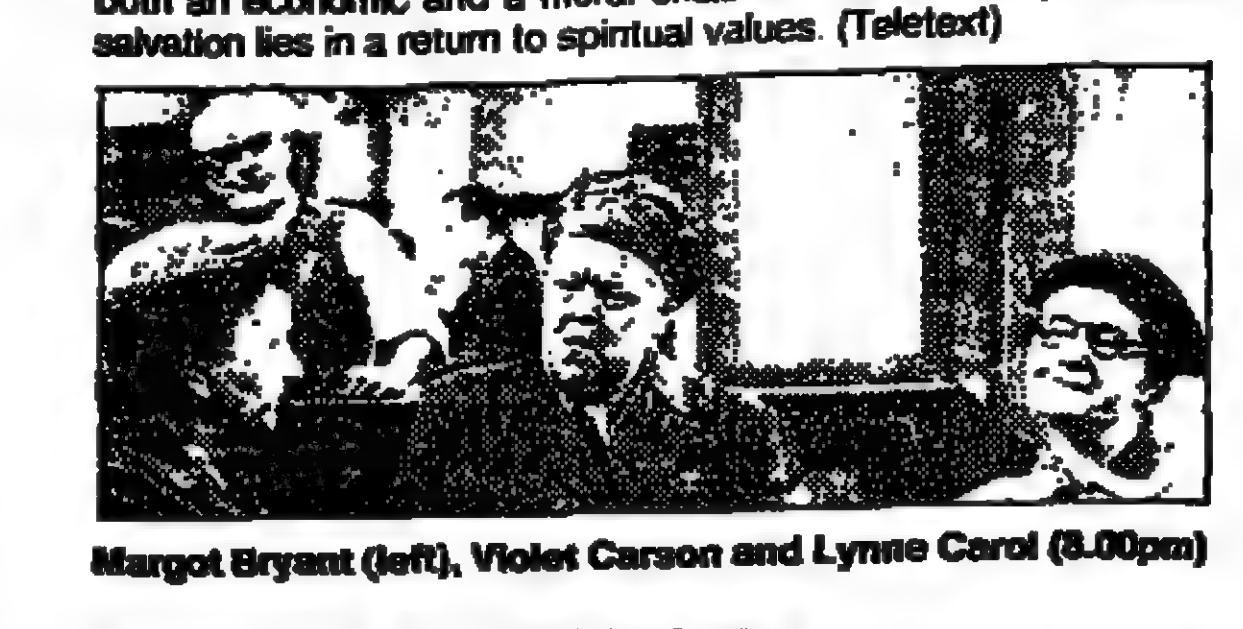
**ITV**  
**6.00** TV-am. Includes, at 6.00, Cliff Richard's Christmas Day Special in which the ageing star tells the story of Christmas, sings some songs, shows clips from his latest tour and introduces the Choir of the Year  
**9.25** Carphone at Christmas. A Twenty Five triple bill (7)  
**9.50** Teletext - Thanks to You. Michael Aspin finds out how money raised by Teletext 50 will help make this a merry Christmas for people in need  
**10.45** Find a Family Update. Youngsters who featured in ITV's *Find a Family* campaign enjoy Christmas at a stately home in the New Forest with their new families  
**11.00** Christmas Family Communion from All Saints Church, Fulham, London  
**12.00** The Disney Club Christmas Special. Andrea Boardman, John Eccleston and Gordon Kelly offer Christmas greetings from Aspen, Colorado, with special guests Daniel Minogue and Breakey  
**1.00** Ronn Lucas Special - Who's in Charge Here? American ventriloquist Ronn Lucas live on stage  
**2.00** Torville & Dean with the Russian Masters. An ice spectacular from Nottingham, where Jayne Torville and Christopher Dean perform with Russian Olympic skating stars  
**3.00** The Queen. Her Majesty speaks to the Commonwealth  
**3.05** Film: *Moonraker* (1979). Traditional helping of 007 for the festive day, although it is one of the weakest of the series and no match for *ET* or *Star Wars*. Bond's mission is to locate a missing US/English space shuttle which has mysteriously disappeared during a test flight. He finds himself up against the megalomaniac Hugo Drax, who, like most Bond adversaries, is bent on world domination. With Roger Moore, Michael Lonsdale and Lois Chiles. Directed by Lewis Gilbert. (Oracle)  
**5.25** News with Richard Bath. Weather  
**5.30** Strike It Lucky Christmas Special hosted by Michael Barrymore. The jackpot goes to children's charities



"How tickled I am": Ken Dodd, King of the Diddymen (6.15pm)

**6.15** Ken Dodd at the London Palladium.  
 CHOICE: With his carefully dishevelled hair and flashing fangs Dodd is back on the screen for a Christmas special, proving that he is still just about the best of our stand-up comics. Apart from a performing act that is virtually a solo effort, delivered with Dodd's characteristic energy and gift timing. His act is in the tradition of the great music-hall performers, such as Max Baer, and crucially depends on an ability to play off a live audience. At the same time he manages the trick which Miller never mastered of reaching out to the television audience at home. His material is a mixture of high-speed nonsense, with the same sort of surreal logic as *Allo 'Allo*, and topical gags. Dodd may be a bit of a xenophobe but his comment on the threat posed by the enlarged Germany ("now you will never get a sunbaked in Weizsacker") is both funny and contains more than a germ of truth  
**7.30** Coronation Street. How far the day in the Street? Gail has news for the family, Curly finds a soulmate, Alec bites off more than he can chew and the Duckworths take refuge. (Oracle)  
**8.00** Film: *Beverly Hills Cop II* (1987). (Oracle) See television film choice for Christmas on page 14  
**10.00** French Fields. Undemanding sitcom starring Julia McKenzie and Anton Rodgers as the English couple making a new life for themselves across the Channel  
**10.45** News with Richard Bath. Weather  
**11.00** Film: *What's Up Doc?* (1972). Pastiche screwball comedy with the unrepentant parody of *Ben Hur* and *Ben Hur*. Scatterbrained genius Jude Law based on stuffy Howard at a musicologist's convention. Their relationship is complicated by a rock collection, jewels and stolen government papers. An untiring gaggle for a Christmas night slump. Directed by Peter Bogdanovich  
**12.50am** Film: *Murder My Murder* (1983). A made-for-television thriller starring Stacy Keach as private investigator Mike Hammer. Above average mystery that led to a successful series of Hammer stories. Directed by Gary Nelson. Followed by News headlines  
**2.40** Film: *Feel the Motion* (1985). Unsprung West German pop musical starring Sissy Kelling, Pia Zadora and Meatloaf. Tins works as a garage mechanic but she dreams of being a pop singer. Full of energy but not much else. Directed by Wolfgang Piller  
**4.35** Sources Live Christmas. A look at the business of selling records at Christmas with memories of past Christmas number ones  
**5.35** Cartoon Time. Cartoon double bill (7)  
**5.55** ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

**CHANNEL 4**  
**6.00** Bobby Jones Gospel (7) 6.30 The Art of Landscape 7.00 Trans World Sport. Includes the presentation of the Trans World Sport's Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year awards  
**8.00** Christmas on the Box. A guide to the New Kids on the Block, Al B Sure and Bobby Brown (7)  
**8.25** The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah interviews the New Kids on the Block, Al B Sure and Bobby Brown (7)  
**9.15** Countdown Masters. Word men Geoff Taylor and Robert Cotton tackle a festive conundrum  
**9.25** Sesame Street. Pre-school educational series  
**10.25** Batman and Robin (b/w). In episode two the dynamic pair retrieve some stolen diamonds 10.45 And The Light House 11.00  
**10.55** Cirque du Soleil: We Re-Invent the Circus. This is a circus with a difference, founded in 1984 by a group of street entertainers from Quebec. There are no animals, no lion tamers and no individual stars  
**12.00** Arnold Palmer: Signing Off. Arnold Palmer looks back on a golfing career that has spanned three decades  
**1.00** Lisa Stansfield - All Around the World. The hit singer talks to Paul Gambaccini about her life and career  
**2.00** Talking Turkey - The Alternative Christmas Lunch. An interview with Warren Mitchell and Nina Inverarity  
**2.05** The Alternative Christmas Lunch. An interview with Warren Mitchell and Nina Inverarity  
**2.10** The Alternative Christmas Lunch. An interview with Warren Mitchell and Nina Inverarity  
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**5.55** The Alternative Christmas Lunch. An interview with Warren Mitchell and Nina Inverarity  
**6.00** The Alternative Christmas Lunch. An interview with Warren Mitchell and Nina Inverarity



Margaret Bryant (left), Violet Carson and Lynne Carol (8.00pm)

**8.00** The Coronation Street Birthday Lecture.  
 CHOICE: A perceptive view of 30 years of the northern soap comes from one of its longest serving, Roy Hattersley. Promising no paradigms, sub-texts or symbolism, Hattersley sticks to an uncomplicated reading which stresses the quality of scripts and acting and the unpatronising representation of the lives of ordinary people. He argues the paradox that while the show is at its best when it sticks to its own territory, it has a resonance which goes far beyond the confines of working-class Lancashire. In another useful insight Hattersley contrasts the show's abrasive style with its warm-hearted content and suggests that *Coronation Street* is essentially an affirmation of family values. Clips from each of the programme's three decades are a reminder of the standard of writing and the vivid characterisations from a raft of fine players, including Violet Carson, Arthur Lowe and Jean Alexander. (Teletext)  
**9.00** Carmen on Ice. The hot-blooded Carmen is ice-cool on skates in this much-loved opera by Bizet. Olympic figure-skating champion Katarina Witt is partnered by two Olympic winners, Brian Boitano and Brian Orser  
**10.30** Nigel Kennedy Plays Bruch. The spiky-haired violinist performs Max Bruch's Concerto No 1 in G minor with the City of London Sinfonia  
**11.15** He Turned Up. Ian Mackenzie, son of a Scottish peer, looks back on a lifetime of experiences, and connects the Christmas story with dramatic events in his own life. (Teletext)  
**12.15am** Film: *Rouge* (1987). See television film choice for Christmas on page 14. Ends at 2.05



Ice spectacular: Jayne Torville and Christopher Dean (ITV, 2.00pm)

**SKY ONE**  
 6.00am The Sky One News  
 6.30am The Sky One News  
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## BBC 1

- 7.00 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, Andi Peters, and Philippa Forrester, begins with Wizzib. Magical adventures with the story by Hans Christian Andersen (7.50). *Playdays*, includes a visit to St George's Hospital in Tooting, London (8.10). *The Island of Nowhere*, animated tale set on an uncharted island.
- 9.00 The *Man* featured film. Feature-length musical adventure with Fred, Barney, Wilma, Betty and the rest of the residents of Bedrock.
- 10.30 World Cup 90, Desmond Lynam introduces a chance to relive the action from the World Cup finals in Italy, including England's victory over Brazil through to the semi-finals. *Gazza*, blubbing, dramatic depiction of the appearance in the tournament and Scotland's dramatic departure.
- 11.30 *Are You Being Served?* (1977). The staff of Grace Brothers department store take themselves off to the Costa Florida for some Spanish sauce and double entendres with a distinctly British flavour. People seen off from the television series with the regular cast headed by Mollie Sugden, John Innes and Frank Thornton. Directed by Bob Kellett. (Ceefax)
- 1.00 The *Good Life*. Silly But It's Fun. Easy-going comedy about alternative subsistence in suburbia. Out off from the usual comforts of civilised life, Christmas does not go quite according to plan. With Richard Briers, Felicity Kendal, Penelope Keith and Paul Eddington. (r)
- 1.30 *Mews* with Chris Lowe. *Weather*.
- 1.35 *Film: The Poseidon Adventure* (1972). Very popular but hugely overrated disaster movie with Gene Hackman as the minister who sees the light when a ocean liner is captured by a giant tidal wave. He leads his small flock along the only feasible route of escape, through the bottom of the ship, which is now the top. Ernest Borgnine, Shelley Winters and Red Buttons are among those trying to follow him. Directed by Ronald Neame. (Ceefax)
- 3.30 *Disneytime*. Clips from classic Disney films, including *Fantasia*, *Lady and the Tramp*, and *Chips 'n' Dale*, introduced by Philip Schofield. Plus a look at Walt Disney World in Florida.
- 4.10 *Jim'll Fix It* for Christmas. Small children brave the smoke from Sir Jimmy Savile's cigars to seize the chance of making their dreams come true.
- 4.55 *Final Score*. Sports news presented by Ralph Deter.
- 5.10 *Mews* with Chris Lowe. *Weather*.
- 5.25 The *Russ Abbot Christmas Show*. Russ Abbot turns up as an overweight Peter Pan teaching Wendy to fly and starring in the musical story of Hans Christian Andersen. With all the usual characters and support from Les Dennis and Bella Emberg. (Ceefax)
- 6.05 *Film: Back to the Future* (1985). (Ceefax) See Television Film Choice for Christmas on page 14.



French connection: Theresa Liotard and John Nettles (8.00pm)

- 8.00 *Bergerac Christmas Special*: There for the Picking. As Jim Bergerac (John Nettles) has retired with girlfriend Danielle (Theresa Liotard) to a more leisurely life in Provence, how is Charlie Hargrove (Terence Alexander) going to worm his way into the plot of this feature-length edition of the Jersey detective series? Jersey police discover a cache of grenades in a car parked in a whisky. There seems to be a French connection, and Jim's old colleagues request his assistance. A feature-length special, with a new series to follow early in 1991. (Ceefax)
- 9.40 *Smith and Jones*. Quirky comedy from Griff Rhys Jones and Mel Smith, striving valiantly to avoid all mention of Christmas. Instead they discuss Filipino wives, become involved with organised Welsh crime in the shape of the "Talis", and attend the funeral of a DIY fanatic. (Ceefax)
- 10.10 *Mews* with Chris Lowe. (Ceefax) *Weather*.
- 10.25 *Film: Poltergeist II* (1982). The Freeling family obey the fundamental rule of horror movies and do something no one in their right mind would even contemplate — they move back to the house where they were terrorised by supernatural forces in the original *Poltergeist*. The film follows the law of all sequels in failing to reproduce the success of the first, though seen in its own right it is fairly spooky. As before, the battle is on between the family, with the help of an Indian shaman and a psychic researcher, and the spirit world, for the persons of little Carol Anne. Directed by Brian Gibson. (Ceefax)
- 11.55 *Toto — Live in Paris*. American rock stars Toto captured in a rare live performance 12.50am *Weather*.

- 8.00 *English Towns*. Alec Clifton-Taylor explores the Sussex town of Lewes. (r)
- 8.40 *Film: Tarzan Finds a Son!* (1939, b/w). The only survivor of a plane crash near Tarzan's home is a baby boy, crying out for warmth and help. Tarzan and Jane decide to take him as their own and raise him according to the ways of the jungle. Johnny Weissmuller stars as the ape man and Maureen O'Sullivan as Jane in one of the better Tarzan movies. Directed by Charles Thorpe.
- 10.00 *Film: Summer Stock* (1980). Engaging musical about a farmer's daughter who invites a theatre troupe to take over the barn for rehearsals. She soon gets the bug for performing and dreams of finding fame. Starring Judy Garland, Gene Kelly and Phil Silvers. Directed by Charles Walters.
- 11.55 *How High Are the Mountains?* The first of a series of six programmes examining child exploitation around the world, set against the festive background of the Christmas season.
- 12.00 *Greenaways*. Animated adventure for children. (r)
- 12.15 *The Unanswered Question: Leonard Bernstein at Harvard — Musical Phenomenon*. His six Harvard University lectures are being repeated as a tribute to the celebrated composer and pianist Leonard Bernstein, who died in October. This one includes a complete performance of Mozart's *Symphony No. 40*. (r)
- 2.00 *The Transformers: The Butterflies of Zagorak*. This first of three programmes on the art of inspired teaching tells the story of children studying at the deaf-blind school in Zagorak, near Moscow. Though their children never stop "speaking", the only sound to be heard is that of fluttering fingers, hence the parallel with butterflies. (Ceefax)
- 3.00 *Beethoven Symphonies*. Roger Norrington conducts the London Classical Players' performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4* in B flat.
- 3.35 *Laurel and Hardy in Bacon Grabbers* (b/w). See Television Film Choice for Christmas on page 14.
- 3.55 *Beethoven Symphonies*. The London Classical Players, conducted by David Norrington, perform on original instruments, which emphasise the sense of challenge to be found in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* in C minor. Op. 67.
- 4.30 *Cricket: Second Test*. Highlights from the first day of the second Test between Australia and England in Melbourne.
- 5.00 *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Simon Rattle conducts the Glyndebourne production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. This beautiful score is performed on period instruments by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in the Festival Opera production. The tale spins a web of intrigue, double-standards and infidelity, all of which take place when Figaro, Count Almaviva's valet, is due to marry the Countess's maid Susanna. By the end of the action-filled day, all the members of the Count's household have had their lives and loves turned upside down. Simon Rattle discusses the effect of period instruments on the production, and concludes Nicholas Kroll and Charles Mackerras. Singers include Dale Duesing, Joan Rodgers, Felicity Palmer and Martine Rothblatt.
- 8.00 *Film: Manon des Sources* (1986). See Television Film Choice for Christmas on page 14.
- 9.50 *A Life in Peasac*. Partridge in a Pear Tree. Peter Cook as Sir Arthur Peasac-Greville in a series of comic interviews with Lucovic Kennedy. Tonight's programme sees him choosing 12 gifts with a difference for the 12 days of Christmas.



Memories of Clyde: Tom Watson as Hughie (9.55pm)

- 9.55 *The Ship*.  
 • *CHOICE*: Bill Bryden's epic tribute to shipbuilding on the Clyde, performed in a converted engine shed as part of Glasgow's European City of Culture celebration, makes an effective contribution to the small screen. The fluid structure of the piece, in which performers are brought together to tell the story, lends itself to television presentation and viewers will have a more privileged view than many of those at the performance. Although the subject is big, many of the scenes are small and intimate, involving only a few characters, and this, too, works to television's advantage. *The Ship* offers a tapestry rather than a narrative, weaving together various strands which make up the community and its culture. Work, and the pride and insecurity that goes with it, is only part of a landscape that takes in the pub, the wash day and the dance hall and is socially split between Catholics and Protestants.
- 11.35 *Film: Suspicion* (1941, b/w). (Ceefax) See Television Film Choice for Christmas on page 14.
- 1.10am *Weather*.

## BOXING DAY TELEVISION AND RADIO 17

## ITV

- 6.00 *TV-am*.
- 9.25 *Christmas Ducks*. The duck from Transylvania finds himself in outer space. With the voice of David Jason 9.55 *T-Bag's Christmas* *Dring-Dring* starring Glenda Jackson and Georgina.
- 10.35 *Film: Candlesong* (1977) starring David Niven, Leo McKern, Jodie Foster and Helen Hayes. Harry Dunlop, an English can artist, attempts to pass off 14-year-old beauty, Casey Brown, as an heiress. Niven fans will enjoy his performance as the butler but there is little else to get excited about. Directed by Norman Tokar.
- 12.25 *News* with Nicholas Owen. *Weather*.
- 12.30 *Film: Return to Oz* (1985). See Television Film Choice for Christmas on page 14.
- 2.30 *Beatrix Potter: The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*. Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Timothy Spall and Thom Hirst star in a delightful dramatisation of the Beatrix Potter story.



A fetching heroine: Polly Walker as Lorna Doone (3.30pm)

- 3.30 *Film: Lorna Doone* (1980).  
 • *CHOICE*: Swirling mists and galloping horses greet a new version of R.D. Blackmore's classic romance which is strongly evocative of the early days of the quality of Robert Stephens and Kenneth Haigh in the original. The excellent Polly Whitehead is rather more prominent and Sean Bean's Carver Doone is a dashing handsome villain. So much so that Clive Owen's John Ridd is a mere upstart, but Polly Walker is a fetching Lorna. Matthew Jacobs' screenplay plays down the 17th century political background and represents the Ridd-Doone conflict as a feud in a Hollywood western, complete with dramatic shoot-out. Bleak and witty locations emphasise the darker aspects of the story but younger viewers will be reassured by a denouement in which the forces of good are clearly seen to triumph. The mixture of accents, with mummery alongside hints of Scottish and Irish, can be a little jarring. (Oracle)
- 5.15 *News* with Nicholas Owen. *Weather*.
- 5.30 *The Krypton Factor*. Special. Television's toughest quiz gets the festive treatment with celebrities from *The Bill*, *Emmerdale*, *Coronation Street* and *Brookside* taking part in the competition of brain and brawn. (Oracle)
- 6.00 *Christmas Cuedo*. Viewers get the chance to play detective in this television version of the popular board game. Celebrities in the studio critique the suspects in an attempt to ascertain the murderer, the weapon and the room in which the deed took place. Guests include Ian Lavender, Derek Nimmo, Kate O'Mara and Toyah Wilcox.
- 6.45 *This is Your Life*. An extended version of the show in which Michael Aspel surprises another famous face in an edition that will bring back memories of the famous Christmas of days gone by.
- 7.30 *Coronation Street*. (Oracle)
- 8.00 *Film: Dirty Dancing* (1987). (Oracle) See Television Film Choice on page 14.
- 9.50 *The Bill: Safe As Houses*. Supergrass Lennie Powell laps up the comfort of police protection from the Sun Hill officers and decides to offer them mormonism. (Oracle)
- 10.20 *News* with Nicholas Owen. *Weather*.
- 10.30 *Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment* (1985) starring Steve Guttenberg, Bubba Smith and Cofeeen Camp. More adventures of the trainee cops. Inane slapstick comedy that was even worse than the first but proved extremely popular at the box office. Directed by Jerry Paris. (Oracle)
- 12.10am *Film: The Return of the Seven* (1986) starring Yul Brynner, Robert Fister and Warren Oates. Six more gun fighters are recruited by Yul Brynner and storm a Mexican town to set free a friend who is being held by marauding outlaws. Unsurpassed attempt to cash in on one of the cinema's most celebrated westerns. Directed by Burt Kennedy. Followed by *News* headlines.
- 2.00 *Film: Robbery under Arms* (1985) starring Sam Neil, Christopher Cummins and Steven Vidler. Two brothers are ordered to meet their father, an Englishman transported to New South Wales after being convicted of armed robbery. While there, they encounter his leader, notorious Captain Starlight, the bushranger. Directed by Ken Hannam and Donald Crombie.
- 4.00 *America's Top Ten*. A look at the top ten acts of the 80s.
- 4.30 *Film: The Pickwick Papers* (1986). Feature-length cartoon version of the Dickens classic directed by Warwick Gilbert.
- 5.55 *ITN Morning News* with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00.

- 6.00 Bobby Jones Gospel. The best of American gospel music from Nashville, Tennessee (6.30) *The Art of Landscape*. Scenes of the natural world set to soothing music 7.00 *Art's Special Day*. Magician All Bongo entertains (7.30) *Kaboodle*. Two stories, one about a horse and rider who ends up in an unusual place, the other about a little boy who cannot get rid of his hiccup.
- 8.00 *The Christmas Tree Train*. Cartoon (8.25) *Ric*. Cartoon 8.30 *The Turkey Caper*.
- 9.00 *Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line* 9.15 *Countdown Masters* 9.25 *Sesame Street*. Educational fun for pre-school children 10.25 *Samman and Robin* (b/w). Episode three.
- 10.50 *Boyz* — A Short Film About Chilling. Boyz has one of the finest club scenes in Europe. The film looks at the time when 500 British revelers went to Ibiza for the start of the season, enjoying wild party nights, and "chilling" during the daytime (r).
- 11.30 *Tony Jacklin's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge*. New series with professional golfers Sam Torrance and Ronan Rafferty teaming up with sportsman and entertainers for the Whyte & Mackay Scotch Trophy. From Le Touquet snooker ace Dennis Taylor partners Torrance against Rafferty and entertainer Bruce Forsyth.
- 12.35 *Channel Racing from Kempton Park*. Live coverage of the 12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 (King George VI Stakes) and 2.50 races.
- 3.10 *Animations*. Western from Hungary and Paterson from the United States.
- 3.30 *Film: International House* (1933, b/w). See Television Film Choice for Christmas on page 14.
- 4.50 *News* summary and *Weather*.
- 4.55 *Fairly Tale Theatre: The Princess Who Had Never Laughed*. Starring Ellen Barkin, Howie Mandel and Howard Hesseman. (Teletext)
- 5.55 *The Further Adventures of Billy the Fish*.
- 6.00 *The Wonder Years*. American comedy about a young boy growing up in the 1970s (r).
- 6.30 *Tonight with Jonathan Ross*. The guests are actor Jeff Goldblum and comedian Pete McCarthy.
- 7.00 *Padre Pablo*. A portrait of Canadian Fr Harvey Steele who is revered by millions of Latin Americans who know him as "Padre Pablo". The chain-smoking, whisky-drinking, Roman Catholic firebrand has made enemies — and not just because of his unconventional lifestyle. In the Dominican Republic and Panama he has helped working people to establish credit unions and marketing co-operatives, in so doing helped to give the poor more power over their economic future. Now aged 79, his tales of the encounters he encountered from the Catholic Church, the assassination attempts on his life and the establishment of the Panama-based co-op training school for the whole of Latin America which stands as the realisation of his dreams. (Teletext)
- 8.00 *Brookside*. Down-to-earth Liverpool soap. (Teletext)
- 8.30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Celebrities turn out to pay their respects to one of America's most popular chat show hosts of the moment. Presented by Bob Hope, this musical extravaganza features Roseanne Barr, Whoopi Goldberg, M.C. Hammer, Lily Tomlin and James Earl Jones. Even first lady Barbara Bush appears on video to sing Oprah's praises.



Portrait of a composer under stress: Tchaikovsky (9.25pm)

- 9.25 *Tchaikovsky — Fate*.  
 • *CHOICE*: Christopher Nupen concludes his "musical biography" by picking up the story of the composition of the Fourth Symphony in 1878 and taking it through to the composer's death 15 years later. As in his earlier film, *Tchaikovsky's Women*, Nupen's approach is unpretentious and accessible and largely allows the subject to speak for himself through his letters and his music, with only a light critical gloss. Played by the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy, the music is smoothly integrated into the narrative and never used simply to fill it out. Still photographs indicate how quickly Tchaikovsky aged and the letters reveal a continual fear of creative decline. The main works of his later period, the three final symphonies and *Manfred*, demonstrate that, on the contrary, his creative powers were maintained to the end.
- 11.00 *Film: Requiem for Dominic* (1980). See Television Film Choice for Christmas on page 14.
- 12.40am *Danceadazz*. Recorded at the Eton Academy, the hottest dance, hip-hop and rap acts around.
- 1.40 *The Other Side of Gerry Sadovitz*. Brusque comedian Gerry Sadovitz concludes his alternative guide to the art of the close-up card magician. Ends at 1.55.

## TV VARIATIONS

## CENTRAL

As London edition 2.00am Film: *Clown of the West* 3.30am *Clown of the West*

## SAC

Starts 8.00am Early Morning 9.25 *Sesame Street* 10.25 *The Adventures of Sam and Max* 10.50 *Fazio's Tale* 11.00 *Jack and the Beanstalk* 11.45 *Winter Tale* 11.50 *Philly* 12.15 *Shirley Temple* 12.30 *Channel 4* 1.00 *From Kermanshah* 1.30 *From Kermanshah* 1.50 *From Kermanshah* 2.00 *From Kermanshah* 2.30 *From Kermanshah* 2.50 *From Kermanshah* 3.00 *From Kermanshah* 3.30 *From Kermanshah* 3.50 *From Kermanshah* 4.00 *From Kermanshah* 4.30 *From Kermanshah* 4.50 *From Kermanshah* 5.00 *From Kermanshah* 5.30 *From Kermanshah* 5.50 *From Kermanshah* 6.00 *From Kermanshah* 6.30 *From Kermanshah* 6.50 *From Kermanshah* 7.00 *From Kermanshah* 7.30 *From Kermanshah* 7.50 *From Kermanshah* 8.00 *From Kermanshah* 8.30 *From Kermanshah* 8.50 *From Kermanshah* 9.00 *From Kermanshah* 9.30 *From Kermanshah* 9.50 *From Kermanshah* 10.00 *From Kermanshah* 10.30 *From Kermanshah* 10.50 *From Kermanshah* 11.00 *From Kermanshah* 11.30 *From Kermanshah* 11.50 *From Kermanshah* 12.00 *From 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# Heads call for slow-down in final changes to curriculum

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers have told the government that the final stage of the National Curriculum, for the 14-16 age group, should be delayed by at least a year. Key stage four, as the programmes are known, is due to start in September 1992.

In a statement today, the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) argues that the content of the curriculum should not be set in advance of decisions on A-levels and vocational courses for older pupils. Revised proposals on post-16 education are due for publication next

month. Adherence to the government's timetable will cause severe curriculum overload, NAHT says. It made a similar appeal before the introduction of the GCSE.

The association is to meet Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, next month to press the case for a delay and give its views on A-level reform. David Hart, the general secretary, said yesterday: "Ministers have made some important statements recently on the shape of vocational examinations in the sixth form. If they are working in this direction, and we wholly agree that they should, they must take on the implications for boys and girls going into the sixth form."

Tim Eggar, minister of state at the education department, has called for a new framework of vocational subjects as an alternative to the academic emphasis in sixth forms. Mr Clarke has also indicated that he will be seeking wider choice for pupils beyond the age of 16.

The School Examinations and Assessment Council has already proposed changes to A and AS-levels, and is discussing links between the two sets of examinations and those run by the Business and Technician Education Council. The NAHT's statement says: "The current consultation by the government on key stage four cannot and must not be seen in isolation from the whole of the debate on the future structure of 14-19 education."

## Families take to the road

Continued from page 1  
meanwhile, was cancelling flights on domestic routes because fewer passengers than expected had turned up to buy shuttle tickets.

"Demand has been a great deal less than we expected," said a spokesman. "Perhaps it is the economic problem or the fact that the travel days are spread over a longer period than last year, but it is much quieter than we predicted."

Hardest hit was the Belfast shuttle for which BA had set aside 15,000 seats over the weekend. In the end only 10,000 tickets were sold - 3,000 fewer than last year - and two wide-bodied jets were cancelled.

The shut down in London began at Friday lunchtime as offices closed early and staff headed home to complete their last minute shopping. By early evening many of the capital's pubs had shut and those attractions still open did little business. By late evening on Friday the roads in central London were empty.

On Saturday many suburban towns were packed with shoppers, many of whom appear to have realised at the last moment that they would have, after all, to buy the presents they had given willingly in better economic times.

Then early yesterday the first rush to the country began and the AA was reporting big queues in some areas as early as 7am as drivers tried to reach their destination in time for lunch. At midday the rush slowed slightly only to build up again in the afternoon.

Airport terminals, although reasonably thronged with people either going abroad on holiday or joining their families for the Christmas celebrations, were busy but with little overcrowding and few delays.



Christmas message: the Queen with Sir David Attenborough at a holly-decked microphone during rehearsals for her Christmas Day speech. The five-minute address was recorded at Buckingham Palace and will be broadcast at 3pm tomorrow

## Labour attacks threat of naval cuts

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government is heading for a damaging political clash over new Ministry of Defence proposals to cut the army to 100,000 trained soldiers and to close down at least two naval bases.

Opposition MPs said yesterday that they would demand a statement from Tom King, the defence secretary, after the Christmas recess, into the leaked plans that include the closure of Rosyth and Portland naval bases.

Gordon Brown, opposition trade and industry spokesman, whose constituency covers Rosyth, the naval base on the Firth of Forth, said: "I will tell the prime minister that any attempt to run down Rosyth, especially during this period of Gulf uncertainty, will be vigorously opposed."

The proposed cuts, part of the government's "options for change" defence review, have been included in a series of "impact reports" produced for central staff at the MoD, which has been carrying out the comprehensive review since the beginning of this year.

Service chiefs and other key figures had been asked to outline the impact on operational capabilities of a long list of suggested cuts. Apart from facilities such as air and navy bases, there is also a list of weapons systems earmarked for

possible cancellation. Drawn up by Alan Clarke, the minister for defence procurement, the cuts have become known inside the ministry as "the duck shoot".

Senior service personnel are now alarmed at the huge potential cuts in facilities and equipment to balance the reduced defence budget over the next five years.

Of greatest concern is the effect on Operation Granby in the Gulf, where 35,000 service personnel are committed, and fears over the possibility of an anti-West regime coming to power in the Soviet Union. They believe that extensive cuts at this stage would be premature.

However, senior ministry sources emphasised yesterday that the review could not be "put on

hold" until the Gulf conflict was resolved, unless the government injected at least £1 billion into the defence budget. The ministry said yesterday that the proposals were merely part of the overall analysis of defence requirements for the future. "There are no decisions yet," one official said.

Defence sources indicated that it was unlikely that the entire Rosyth facility would be closed down. The base hosts the navy's minehunters and fishery protection vessels, as well as a privately managed dockyard, which refits the navy's nuclear submarines. Sources said the ministry could not close the dockyard but the naval base would be more vulnerable.

"The minehunters and fishery protection vessels could be sent somewhere else," a source said.

Mr Brown said that he would be writing to John Major and to Mr King "to rule out the alarming, wrong-headed and crass attempt to run down Rosyth". He said: "With 5,000 employees at the dockyard and 2,000 at the naval base, Rosyth is Scotland's biggest single industrial concern. Any rundown would be destructive to the Scottish economy." The government is bound to be sensitive to his remarks.

A big question mark hangs over the future of Portland in Dorset, which is used as a "work-up" training base for surface ships which have been in refit.

Tank replacement, page 4

## Britain asks allies for ammunition

Continued from page 1  
from the gunner batteries equipped with M109 and M110 artillery, and the heavy gun unit equipped with the latest multiple launch rocket system. To maintain a constant artillery barrage, the gunner units should be capable of firing up to 60,000 rounds a day.

Britain's 203mm M110 gun has previously been associated with nuclear-tipped shells. So British conventional stocks for this huge

gun are limited. Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium have bigger stocks of the non-nuclear shells. America has already been helping with extra supplies. Germany and The Netherlands have agreed to supply ammunition, but each will be charging the Ministry of Defence.

The Dutch government has been happy to acknowledge that it is supplying ammunition for Britain's effort in the Gulf. But British sources said the German govern-

ment was "nervous" about confirming supplies, because ammunition was being handed over under treaty obligations normally associated with military exercises in Germany.

Ammunition supplies could have become a key factor had the Falklands conflict in 1982 lasted much longer. There were reports at the time that some units were down to their last supplies when Argentine troops surrendered.

## Lighter living replaces American excess

From CHARLES BREMMER  
IN NEW YORK

WALL Street may have crashed in 1987, but Christmas 1990 will go down in the history of American shopping as the true end of the yuppie era. From Beverly Hills to Fifth Avenue, and throughout the 2,000-odd miles of consumerland between, it has been a season of the shopkeepers want to forget. With recession biting and war looming, chastened younger Americans have shunned the expensive trappings they embraced in the 1980s, forcing most stores to hold their January sales before Christmas.

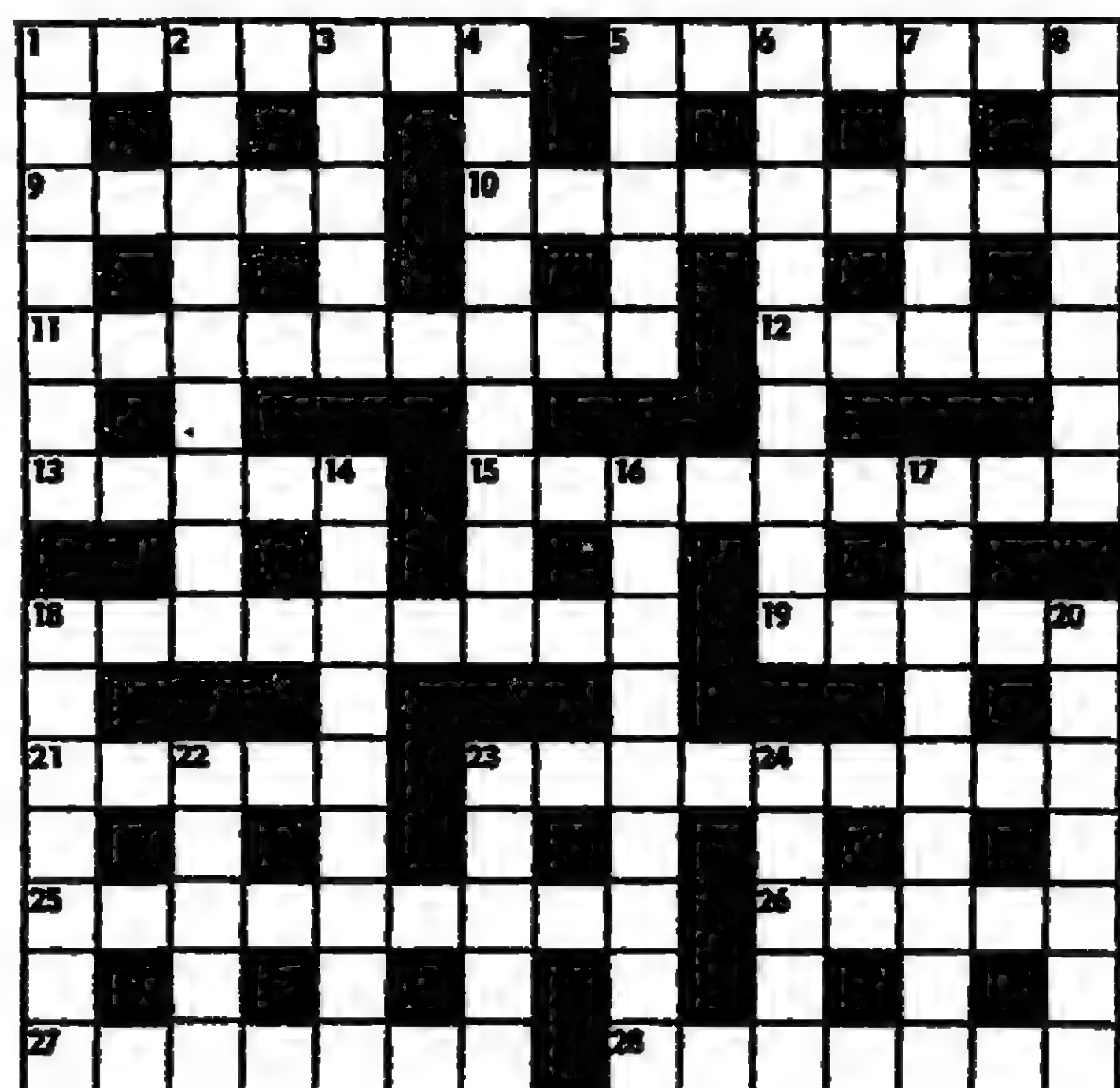
"We are in a bunker here," said an anguished assistant at a half-empty Bergdorf Goodman, the ritziest of New York's department stores. Across the Hudson in the prosperous New Jersey suburb of Paramus, an Italian clothes boutique pleaded for custom, promising that no reasonable offer would be refused. Not even the imminent arrival of a new national luxury tax, to be imposed from next month, has done much to spur indulgence.

But the surest proof of the shift in the consuming mood has been the conversion of purveyors of some of the glossiest icons of the Reagan era. Take Ann Taylor, the women's clothing chain whose sleek suits were standard equipment for climbing the corporate ladder. Yesterday the firm placed full-page advertisements in *The New York Times* with what sounded curiously like a statement of remorse: "What is the use of living if it is not to make this world better for those who live in it after we are gone?"

Then there is the case of Sharper Image, the chain specialising in expensive adult playthings and gadgets. "The Sharper Image is over," Richard Thalheimer, the owner, proclaimed last week after laying off 10 per cent of his staff, holding his first sale and announcing a new creed. He had, he said, repented his misplaced enthusiasm for the spirit of excess. The chain will no longer sell such items as \$2,000 (£1,060) massage chairs and jet-fighter simulators. From now on, Mr Thalheimer said, all the firm's products would be packaged in an "environmentally correct" manner.

The shift in consumer taste has sent the image-makers of Madison Avenue into overdrive helping brands to "redefine their values", as they put it, to tune in to the frugal nineties. "Living lightly" is the new leitmotiv of the marketing men, producing a genre of sombre commercials in which earnest people explain in harrowed tones how a certain expensive car saved their lives in a head-on collision. In its new advertisements, General Motors appears to be appealing for customers to keep its employees in their jobs. The cars are nowhere to be seen.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,485



- ACROSS**
- 1 Trains groups of swimmers (7).
  - 2 Show animal kept outside with no covering (7).
  - 3 A deliberate lighting offence (5).
  - 4 Bat on, mind, though in trouble, to appear game (9).
  - 5 One who makes a stand for a canopy (9).
  - 6 A scientist may be put up (5).
  - 7 Sound fish to rear (5).
  - 8 This tradesman is modern, sensible, and not heartless (9).
  - 9 Those who are patronising must score badly (9).
  - 10 Thin, and a little light (5).
  - 11 The engagement ring (5).
  - 12 Lacking a dot (9).
  - 13 He hasn't a hope (9).
  - 14 Penny-pincher given a thousand rise possibly (5).

- DOWN**
- 1 Italian church fantasy (7).
  - 2 Remains unpaid after note is rejected (7).
  - 3 A temperamental photographer (7).
  - 4 Right underlying man's studies of the past (9).
  - 5 A cat doesn't weigh much (5).
  - 6 Means a vehicle has to reverse to make access (9).
  - 7 Plain-clothes men accompanying Her Majesty get a drink (5).
  - 8 Clever English person keeping all in order (9).
  - 9 Scooped in a way that's valued (5).
  - 10 Follow turned up at one on call-up (9).
  - 11 Almost fitter away liquid assets in Lakeland (4,5).
  - 12 Former top journalist being squeezed out (9).
  - 13 This strikes a bell for many a drinker (7).
  - 14 Stock book (7).
  - 15 Some upkeep! Some place! (5).
  - 16 Compel the underused to split (5).
  - 17 Roman twin seen about with Greek characters (5).

**PARKER DUOFOLD**

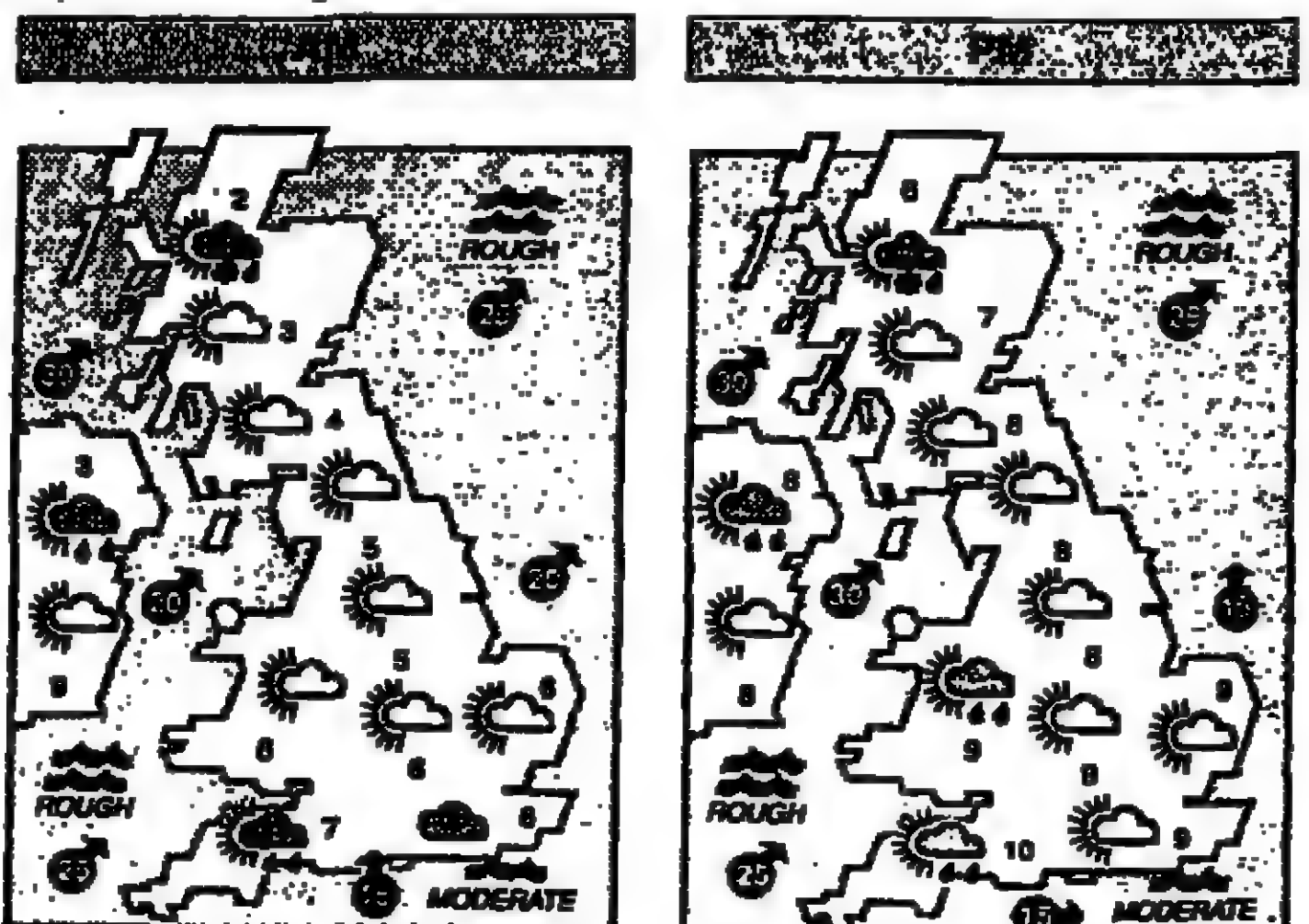
The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,484 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Jumbo crossword, page 12  
Sports crossword, page 22

**WEATHER**  
Eastern parts of England will start cloudy with showers but should become mostly dry with sunny spells. Southern and western parts of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a day of sunny intervals and scattered showers, heavy in places with some snow on high ground in the North. It will feel rather cold in the fresh winds. Outlook: mostly wet and windy, brighter at times in the North.

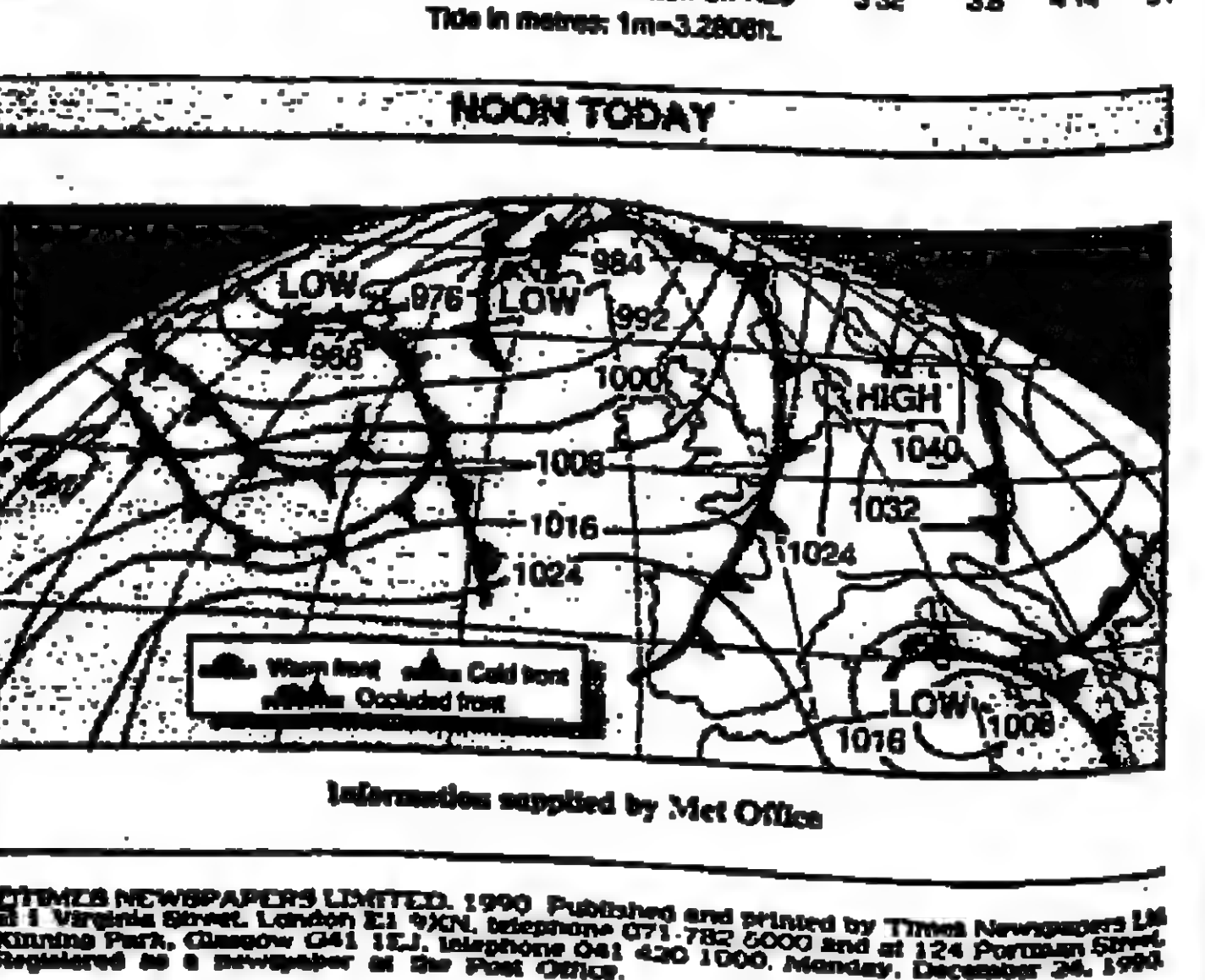
ABROAD		AROUND BRITAIN	
Monday: 1-10: drizzle, 10-12: sun, 12-15: sun, 15-18: sun, 18-21: sun, 21-24: sun, 24-27: sun, 27-30: sun, 30-31: sun		Sun Rain Miles	
Aberdeen 1.1	12	12	12
Belfast 1.1	12	12	12
Birmingham 0.1	12	12	12
Bristol 0.1	12	12	12
Cardiff 0.1	12	12	12
Edinburgh 0.1	12	12	12
Exeter 0.1	12	12	12
Gloucester 0.1	12	12	12
Leeds 0.1	12	12	12
Liverpool 0.1	12	12	12
Manchester 0.1	12	12	12
Nottingham 0.1	12	12	12
Sheffield 0.1	12	12	12
Southampton 0.1	12	12	12
Stirling 0.1	12	12	12
Swansea 0.1	12	12	12
Torquay 0.1	12	12	12
Weymouth 0.1	12	12	12
Wolverhampton 0.1	12	12	12
Wrexham 0.1	12	12	12
York 0.1	12	12	12

LONDON		MANCHESTER		GLASGOW	
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (49F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F); Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent; Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Wind: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m/s; Visibility: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m.		Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (49F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F); Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent; Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Wind: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m/s; Visibility: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m.		Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (49F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F); Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent; Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Wind: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m/s; Visibility: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m.	
Saturday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F); Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent; Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Wind: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m/s; Visibility: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m.		Saturday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F); Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent; Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Wind: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m/s; Visibility: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m.		Saturday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F); Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent; Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in; Wind: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m/s; Visibility: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0/1.5 m.	



YESTERDAY		LIGHTING-UP TIME	
Temp: at midday yesterday: C, cloud, f.		London 7:30 pm to 7:56 am	
Temp: at 10 am, 10C (50F)		Birmingham 7:45 pm to 8:15 am	
Temp: at 4 pm, 12C (54F)		Edinburgh 7:41 pm to 8:11 am	
Temp: at 10 pm, 10C (50F)		Manchester 7:55 pm to 8:25 am	
Temp: at 4 pm, 12C (54F)		Pennance 7:44 pm to 8:14 am	

TODAY		TODAY	
London Bridge 6:40	HT 6:40	HT 6:40	HT 6:40
Aberdeen 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Belfast 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Birmingham 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Bristol 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Cardiff 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Edinburgh 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Exeter 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Gloucester 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Leeds 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Liverpool 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Manchester 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Nottingham 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Sheffield 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Southampton 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Stirling 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Swansea 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Torquay 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Weymouth 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Wolverhampton 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
Wrexham 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51
York 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51	HT 6:51



Information supplied by Met Office

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مكتبة من الاصل



MONDAY DECEMBER 24 1990

## BAe may bid for Boeing offshoot

From Philip Robinson in New York

BRITISH Aerospace is understood to be considering a counter-offer for De Havilland, the loss-making Canadian subsidiary of Boeing that specialises in short-haul passenger aircraft.

BAe's interest is likely to centre on De Havilland's technical expertise in short take-off and landing for possible incorporation in its own commuter aircraft. De Havilland makes Dash-8-100 and larger Dash-8-300 quiet turbo-prop aircraft. BAe makes the successful BAe 146 family of quiet jet airliners.

A BAe spokesman confirmed last night the company was "looking at the situation with interest" but refused to comment further.

In July, Boeing signed a letter of intent to sell the loss-making aircraft manufacturer to Avions de Transport Regional (ATR), a consortium of French and Italian plane-makers, Aeritalia and Aerospaziale, but no deal has yet been announced.

A Boeing spokesman said yesterday: "We have an exclusivity deal with ATR which would prevent us from entering into any other discussions until the ATR talks are concluded. I cannot say what may or may not be going on in terms of contacts between ourselves and British Aerospace."

De Havilland has not made a profit since the early 1980s, although Boeing expects it to approach breakeven soon.

The Canadian company became part of Hawker Siddeley during the forced mergers of British aircraft makers 30 years ago but was sold to the Canadian government in 1974. Boeing bought it for about US\$150 million in 1986.

Boeing invested \$450 million in management and research during its four-year ownership, lifting employment from 4,300 to 6,300.

Since it started production in December 1984, the Dash-8-100 has sold 189 and De Havilland has orders for a further 47. The basic model costs \$8.65 million. The \$10.8 million Dash-8-300, which went into production 15 months ago, has sold 22 planes and has orders for a further 78. De Havilland is able to make five planes a month, which means it has sufficient work for more than the next two years.

## Power float deliveries

THE Post Office received a further 530,000 letters to applicants for shares in the privatised electricity distribution companies on Saturday and Sunday and said it would do its utmost to deliver as many as possible today. This would enable shareholders to sell the small number of shares they have been allocated, although the Stock Exchange will effectively operate only in the morning.

Thus far, the Post Office says it has received 12.3 million letters for electricity share applicants. A further 300,000 may be outstanding.

## CHANGE ON WEEK

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.8840 (-0.0560)  
W German mark 2.8854 (-0.0045)  
Exchange index 92.8 (-0.7)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1688.4 (-12.8)  
FT-SE 100 2164.4 (-4.0)  
New York Dow Jones 2633.66 (+39.85)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24119.6 (-229.9)

### CURRENCY RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.32	2.32
Austria Sch	21.15	19.75
Belgium Fr	66.10	58.10
Canada \$	2.20	2.15
Denmark Kr	11.58	10.88
France Fr	7.31	6.88
Germany DM	10.19	9.58
Grreece Dr	3.01	2.82
Italy Lit	1,128	1,058
Japan Yen	152.20	144.40
Netherlands Gld	1.128	1.058
Portugal Esc	200.48	184.28
Spain Ptas	166.36	154.70
South Africa Rd	5.30	4.70
Swedish Kr	10.19	9.58
Switzerland Fr	11.58	10.88
Turkey Lira	500.00	540.00
USA \$	1.88	1.88
Yugoslavia Dn	27.50	26.50

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)

## Coup at TVS prompted by franchise fear

By Colin Campbell

FEAR that TVS Entertainment could lose its television franchise because management was failing to concentrate on the right priorities has led to a pre-Christmas boardroom coup.

The changes, which take immediate effect, were instigated by Compagnie Generale des Eaux and Canal Plus, which own 24 per cent of TVS shares, acting with City institutions led by Schroders, the merchant bank.

They include a new chairman and reassigned roles, and have been greeted by City analysts as "positive".

Rudolph Agnew, former chairman of Consolidated Gold Fields and successful defender in 1989 of Britain's then record takeover bid from Minoro, comes in as executive chairman.

James Garston, who has been removed from his group chief executive role, will be responsible for the British television interests. The French investors have promised to back the franchise application.

Mr Garston has been spending up to half his time in America, where the group has been struggling to restore MTM, the financially weak programme-making group it bought for £188 million in 1988.

After successes with tele-

vision series such as *Hill Street Blues*, MTM has had difficulty selling some of its new products but has recently sold many of its old comedy shows to a new cable station.

Mr Agnew was said by a colleague to be "a fighter, a man with style and leadership qualities, a person with the tough business experience in both Britain and America that TVS needs".

He replaces Lord Boston of Faversham, who resigned after a 12-hour board meeting on Friday.

City institutions and the two significant French shareholders had been concerned for some months by the poor financial performance of TVS and apparent lack of corporate direction.

They felt too much management time was seemingly spent on MTM when priority should have been devoted to putting TVS in shape to retain its franchise, for which it must reapply in April.

TVS has performed badly on the stock market. The shares have oscillated between 184p and 38p. They closed at 75p on Friday.

Matters came to a head after John Elton, a former Consol-Gold director and friend of Mr Agnew, and Baroness Pamela Sharples resigned as non-executive directors ten days ago. All parties agreed not to

make a public statement, and TVS still refuses to disclose the reasons. Mr Elton has now made public that he lost faith in Mr Garston's executive responsibilities.

The departure of Mr Garston, whose salary last year was £250,000, was discussed but under a compromise worked out by key non-executives he will concentrate on the franchise application.

TVS said he is "a television man through and through" and because of the importance attached to the retention of the franchise, "Mr Garston will devote all his attention to leading the franchise team".

A suggestion that Mr Elton might rejoin TVS as deputy chairman has been ruled out as "highly unlikely".

Mr Agnew, emphasising that there was "no crisis" at TVS, said he would be an executive chairman. He promised "to devote all my energies in the short term to getting TVS in the right corporate shape to fight for and win the retention of its franchise".

He added: "The group's priorities are to beef up its corporate entity and for everybody to concentrate the mind on retaining the franchise."

He declined to discuss MTM's future, though its continuing drain on group resources is likely to receive early attention.

## Garston chief in jail

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE chief of Garston Amhurst, the collapsed investment group, is spending Christmas in prison after pleading guilty to dishonestly conspiring to defraud investors.

Diccon Wright, aged 28, formally pleaded guilty to one charge of dishonestly conspiring to defraud the investors in Garston Amhurst at a preliminary hearing of his case at the Old Bailey last week. He was remanded in custody in Brixton Prison until January 11.

Mr Wright had previously been remanded on bail of £100,000. Three of his co-directors, James Krekis, Stephen Woodhouse and Gordon Davies, were released on bail until the trial begins.

Meanwhile, National Financial Management Corporation, the life insurer owned by TSB Group, has withdrawn part of its offer to the 180 in-

vestors who lost £4 million in Garston's collapse. It has also refused to pay any more towards the investors' legal bills.

Garston was a tied agent of NFM, and many investors thought they were buying NFM products. In June, NFM offered investors up to £1.5 million in compensation. But it refused to compensate investors who had dealt with Garston before December 1987, and offered only 80 per cent to people who could not prove they thought they were buying an NFM product.

This offer was rejected by the Garston Amhurst Investor Protection Group, which continued to fight for a higher award. Last month, NFM offered a further £260,000, including part payments to earlier investors. The offer was conditional on acceptance by all the investors. The protection group continued to

press for a higher offer. Now NFM's solicitors have withdrawn the higher offer and stopped all payments to investors. Until now the company has paid out only £360,000 to 30 of Garston's victims.

NFM has also told investors it will not pay for further legal costs, which already total £180,000.

"Their offer leaves everybody with a loss," said Tomasina Tardif, head of the protection group. "They are not paying interest and they are putting most people down to 80 per cent. They simply won't listen."

The investor protection group has taken up their case with Lantoro, the life assurance regulatory group, which has promised to arrange a meeting with Paul Taylor, NFM's managing director.

A spokesman for NFM said its offer was fair.

## Value of buyout deals drops 50%

By Jonathan Prynn

THE value of completed management buyouts and buy-ins has fallen by more than 50 per cent this year from the record levels in 1989, according to preliminary figures released by the Centre for Management Buyout Research.

Deals worth £3.05 billion were completed this year, against £7.47 billion last year. The decline was largely due to the sharp fall in huge transactions. There were only four deals of over £100 million in 1990, against ten in 1989.

Management buyouts accounted for £2.5 billion of the total, down from £3.88 billion

last year. The fall in management buy-ins was more dramatic, from £3.59 billion to £550 million.

At the lower end of the market, buyouts and buy-ins increased markedly. Overall, the total volume of deals rose 7 per cent from 503 to 540. In the second half, the number of management buyouts was up a third on the same period last year at 221 deals.

However, management buy-ins fell after five years of rapid growth, from 144 in 1989 to 105 this year.

Mega-deals demise, page 20

## UK may amend Heathrow rules

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

BRITAIN has informally indicated that rules preventing new airlines from using Heathrow may be amended to allow United Airlines and American Airlines to take over routes operated by troubled Pan Am and TWA.

In briefings with US officials, the transport department hinted that if they waited until mid-January for the legal process to be completed, dispensation might be given, treating United and American as replacements.

The agreement could, however, be too late to save cash-starved Pan Am, which is

teetering on the brink of collapse and urgently needs the £205 million United is prepared to pay for its Heathrow operations. The rest of the airline could then merge with the rump of TWA.

Among the concessions Britain wants in return from the Americans is the right for a second British carrier to be allowed to fly across the Atlantic from Heathrow in competition with United and American. That would almost certainly let in British Midland, which hopes to begin its own transatlantic operations once it has permission.

## Troops given the bird at Christmas



Bird watcher: Bernard Matthews among some of the assets under his wing at Great Witchingham Hall, Norfolk

## Turkey on menu all year keeps Matthews ahead of the game

By Stephen Leather

BRITISH troops in the Gulf are receiving a bonus this Christmas - Bernard Matthews has shipped 1,000 of his finest turkeys to them.

It has been a busy year for the man whose Norfolk accent and television appearances have made him one of Britain's best-known businessmen. Profits are taking off, he has just turned 60 years old, and this year is his 40th in the turkey business. To celebrate, each of his 2,500 employees has been given a special edition Royal Doulton turkey to mark his company's milestone.

Mr Matthews has come a long way in the last 40 years. In 1950, barely out of his teens, he paid one shilling each for 20 turkey eggs, bought a paraffin incubator for £1.50, and an empire was born.

"My total investment on that day was £2.50. From the 20 eggs, I hatched 12 turkeys which I sold to a local farmer for 75p each when they were four weeks old, so I got £9. I had to sell them because I couldn't afford to feed them any more," he said.

His increase in assets over one month gave him a taste for the turkey business. At any time, he now has up to three million birds under his wing.

Pre-tax profits last year amounted to £9.1 million on

sales of £135.8 million, and analysts believe he could reach profits of about £15 million on £155 million sales this year.

He said: "There has been no outside capital ever brought into this company. The whole thing is still based on that original £2.50."

Great Witchingham Hall,

tors are in the test kitchen every day at midday," he said. "All the ideas come from within the company, and I'm very keen on new product development myself."

Matthews has made its money not so much from selling Christmas turkeys, but from convincing the British public that there are more

and red meat business.

Profits were held back in 1988 and 1989, and the shares have gone from a peak of 98p in 1988 to 53p earlier this year, before recovering to a year's high of 88p on Friday. But the interim figures this year were well above market expectations, with pre-tax profits 68 per cent higher at £6.2 million and the interim dividend doubled to 2p a share. The company is virtually debt-free.

Most of the success is home-grown. The group's attempts to move into continental Europe and America have yet to pay off. A licensing deal with the Sarah Lee Corporation in America has yet to bear real fruit. Mr Matthews said: "It's still running at the moment, we're still quite friendly with them and we are earning some money out of it, so we won't throw it away."

In 1986, the Continent accounted for about 4 per cent of turnover. After four years of pushing, it is about 5 per cent, despite Mr Matthews appearing in a German TV commercial: "Meine Deutsch ist nicht gut, aber mein putzschneitzel is wunderbar."

The company constantly runs into German and French regulations that prevent it selling added-value products, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. "The situation in Germany will alter very shortly and we hope the French will change before 1992," he said. "We're going to invest in Europe when we can find the right things to invest in."

One thing is for sure, when he does make a big move into France, the French will not be seeing him on television extolling the virtue of his "bootiful" products. The company will be playing down its English connections.

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## CALDWELL INVESTMENTS P.L.C.

(Incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 Registered in England No. 269566)

### Introduction to the Unlisted Securities Market

Authorised	Share Capital	Issued
£900,000	in Ordinary shares of 10p each	£676,000

The principal activity of the Group is that of an investment and commercial holding company. The subsidiary companies trade in textiles and allied products.

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W H Ireland, Stephens & Co Limited  
PO Box 506, Grange House  
John Dalton Street, Manchester M60 2QJ

Caldwell Investments P.L.C.  
7 Connaught Square  
London W2 2BH

Hoare Govett Securities Limited and Winterflood Securities Ltd have indicated they will be the market makers and it is anticipated that dealings will commence on 31st December, 1990.

24th December, 1990



Think back to Christmas Eve 1989, as Eastern Europe was throwing off its shackles and stock markets around the world were soaring to astounding records. Who would have thought then that this year would be the grimmest economically, the costliest financially, and the most explosive politically for more than a decade?

But this is supposed to be the festive season, so let us turn this observation upside down. At this year's Christmas parties the talk is entirely about the end of a golden era — of war, bankruptcy, recession and even Stalinist backlash. Could all the fashionable pessimism prove to be as misplaced as the euphoria last year? Here are four unfashionably cheerful predictions for 1991:

□ Iraq will be forced to withdraw from Kuwait, either by war or through negotiations, and the price of oil will fall abruptly either way. In the event of war, the brief spike that would inevitably follow the first bombings would probably last no more than a day or two, since Iraq would find it even harder to

inflict serious damage on oil fields than it did in the war against Iran. Not only is Saudi Arabia infinitely better protected, but the few Iraqi missiles and aircraft that survive American carpet bombing will have to be used against enemy tank forces, not wasted on futile pin-pricks against the world's oil trade.

Either way, the Arab countries and western oil importers should learn an important lesson from the Gulf — the price of oil is too important to be left entirely to a rigged market.

After the dust settles, cooperation between the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the western world on an acceptable long-run path for oil prices will go straight to the top of the international agenda, perhaps even ahead of the Palestinian problem.

□ The turmoil in Moscow may yet have a happy ending, for it is no longer ideology that divides

the conservatives from the progressives. The battle now is over borders and over whether the military and managerial elite continue to be the prime beneficiaries of the nation's economic resources.

The generals want to keep the Soviet Union together and are prepared to lend a heavy hand against the forces of nationalist separatism (many of which themselves have militarist and racist overtones). But they have not the faintest idea of what to do with the economy.

The most important enemies of perestroika are now the factory managers, scientists and engineers who see their powers and privileges threatened by the de-industrialisation and cutbacks in

investment that would be the most important component of any programme for economic stabilisation. What President Gorbachev must now do is persuade these people that they would re-emerge as the managerial elite in a market-based economy, with capitalist-style privileges beyond the dreams of communist avarice.

In Marxist terms, the question is whether the present managerial elite in the Soviet Union is more like a feudal or a bourgeois ruling class. History suggests that feudal rulers can be overthrown only through bloodshed. But contrary to Marx's expectations, the sort of semi-meritocratic, semi-bourgeoisie that runs the Soviet Union may be susceptible to

reform from within.

□ The pound will probably stabilise in the weeks ahead somewhere between its recent low of DM2.85 and DM2.90. This will enable the government to cut interest rates, albeit with less alacrity than the economic situation or the Conservative party's political requirements would have justified outside the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

The pound's interest advantage over the mark offers investors a virtually guaranteed profit as long as Britain does not leave the ERM or realign sterling's band downwards.

Some such realignment seems almost certain before or just after the next election. The level at which sterling stabilises essentially reflects the market's expectation about when either a voluntary realignment or an ERM breakdown will come.

Whenever the pound is at DM2.85 or lower, the market is

effectively forecasting a realignment within six months or less. With the pound above DM2.90, the market is banking on the ERM bands being preserved for a year or more.

The truth probably lies somewhere between, suggesting that the pound will settle towards the top of the DM2.85 to DM2.90 range and that the whole range will move downwards as the interest differential between Britain and Germany narrows.

By the middle of next year, DM2.85 will probably be the top of the trading range, rather than the bottom. The ultimate ERM floor of DM2.78 will be looking increasingly vulnerable amid calls for dramatic policies to pull the economy out of recession. This leads to the final prediction.

□ Sooner, rather than later, anti-recession policies will be applied and the recession will prove shorter than many pessimists are expecting. For if there is one certainty about the prospects for the coming year it is this: Britain will remain a democracy and democracies do not like recessions, especially not in election years.

## Light at end of 1990's gloomy tunnel

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

## GrandMet is our bright spot as Polly leads fall

Our portfolio has again outperformed the FT-SE index. Unfortunately, this time it was in the extent of its fall

THIS time last year, the *Tempus* column was proud to proclaim that it had comfortably beaten the market with its share selections for 1989. The past year has once again seen the FT-SE 100 trailing in its wake: it fell 10.7 per cent, from 2,422.7 to 2,164.4, against the *Tempus* portfolio's 35.3 per cent slide. Pride, it must be confessed, was not the word that leapt irresistibly from this keyboard. Rarely, after all, can it have preceded so literal a fall.

But while acknowledging that there will be those readers who believe that Asil Nadir should have had the company of this column behind bars as this Christmas approached, it must be said that the *Tempus* back is as broad as any auditor's mind.

It was a pretty disappointing performance, even for a difficult year. We did manage to avoid British & Commonwealth, and resisted the temptations of such as Lowndes Queensway and Berisford International. But Polly Peck! As 1990 dawned through the rubble of the Berlin Wall, it seemed that Mr Nadir's bananas would be among the first symbols of East-West trade. How could we have foreseen the banana skins that would send the group sliding into the hands of the administrators and put Mr Nadir in the dock?

Dealings in Polly Peck shares were suspended in September. Their worth today is anyone's guess. For the purposes of the table, we have used the suspension price, but it must be conceded that this is likely to prove highly optimistic.

Polly Peck's perils were

### HOW THEY FARED

	start	high	finish	%loss/gain
Cable & Wireless	554	595	449	-19.0
Eurotunnel Warrants	44	60	24	-45.5
Grand Metropolitan	628	681	671	-6.8
GKN	441	464	328	-25.6
Midland & Scottish	181	192	103	-43.1
Midland Bank	399	404	194	-51.4
Polly Peck	357	482	103	-69.7
Stakis	91.5	98	43	-53.0
Tomkins	250	332	223	-10.8
Trafalgar House	340	382	198	-41.7

\*Suspension price



impossible to predict; the recession — at least its length and ferocity — could scarcely have been foreseen. Few may recollect, but a year ago the popular view was that interest rates would begin a long decline by Easter, leaving some of the out-of-favour financial and construction shares undervalued.

Like Midland Bank. Another year of talking, and the Hongkong and Shanghai merger plan finally collapsed this month. Not before Midland had demonstrated more clearly than ever, through its Third World lending, and its exposure to corporate failure, that it would be better off in somebody's arms.

Either Sir Kit McMahon makes a success of the new,

shrunken Midland, or another bidder moves in. Midland may be worth holding at this level, but it could be some time before we know. Cut losses.

Trafalgar House fell brutally foul of the recession, and recovery, as with the rest of the housebuilding and property industry, looks some way off. The saving grace is the 12.5 per cent dividend yield, but there is little else to go for in 1991.

Stakis was more of a gamble that failed to come off. Its mix of casinos, public houses and restaurants failed to perform, while its refurbished hotels are now only filling rooms at heavily discounted tariffs. Shareholders can hardly expect to be bailed out by a bidder in the current climate. Still, if you are in, hold on.

A more unfortunate casualty was Tomkins. Gregory Hutchings has matched expectations, but in flooding the market with equity to pay for Philips Industries last summer he also realised City fears. Indignation left the share price out of sorts. It will bounce back.

The portfolio's one marked success was Grand Metropolitan. Sir Allen Sheppard's transformed catering giant

outperformed the market, and deserves to again this year. It's not too late to buy.

It is hard to find anything very positive to say about GKN. It clearly remains more vulnerable to recession than was thought, even though conditions have proved far worse than feared. No early recovery here, and there are cheaper stocks in the sector.

Views on Cable and Wireless are mixed. Currency factors will slow the performance in 1991, overshadowing expected underlying growth. The duopoly review was a positive factor, and some believe in a Mercury flotation, which could add value. On balance, they should be worth holding.

Midland & Scottish was the most speculative of the ten stocks. While the 9.4 per cent British & Commonwealth stake is still overhanging the market, there seems little chance of much upside movement, but the outlook for the mid-Nineties looks favourable.

On the other hand, perhaps we should be investing in ropemakers or the manufacturers of revolvers. Still, nobody can get it right all of the time, and at least our portfolio had the dubious quality of consistency.

## Only half of top boards consider green issues

ENVIRONMENTAL

impact on business has been considered at board level by only half of Britain's leading companies, says a Confederation of British Industry survey.

At this year's annual conference, the CBI supported a motion saying the extra burdens on businesses from growing environmental legislation in Britain and the EC were wholly justified. The motion is the furthest industry has gone towards acknowledging pressure for environmentally responsible manufacturing.

The CBI's latest journal backs the move with evidence of how seriously firms are taking the environment as an issue. The CBI reports the results of a poll of leading company finance directors carried out for Coopers & Lybrand.

Debate, the management consultant, which, with Pilkington, the glass manufacturer, is sponsoring the CBI's own environmental initiative.

About 90 per cent of the finance directors rated the environment as a serious issue for their businesses. About 55 per cent said the environment raised significant financial concerns, although the survey found business had largely not shown a speedy practical response to environmental issues.

Only 54 per cent said they had given detailed consideration at board level to the impact of the environment on their businesses. This result tends to support the view of some business-environment analysts who feel that the push is coming from managers still rising in organisations.

The survey shows 56 per cent of the leading companies looked at do not have a formal corporate policy to cover environmental issues. Only 29 per cent had mentioned the subject in annual reports.

PHILIP BASSETT  
Industrial Editor

## Hope for Christmas future as Lamont plays Scrooge

GILT-EDGED

Who would envy Norman Lamont's position as Chancellor? There he was, all set to appear before the markets as Santa and now obliged to switch into the role of Scrooge.

For the gilt market the dimming of Christmas interest rate hopes has been a mixed blessing. For shorts, the prospect of base rates being held high for some time can only be damaging.

For longs also, the cost of carrying stock is more burdensome. But the further one travels along the yield curve, the more important prospective inflation becomes, and the less important the more immediate future for base rates.

The longer base rates are held high, the deeper the recession, and the weaker inflation will be. So the disappointing news on base rates could end up being good news for long gilt.

Not that the market has gone up on the news so far. Partly, of course, that is simply because the market has run out of steam after its bull phase.

But it is also because yields have reached a level where the market is worried about three things — the prospects for funding, the comparison with yields on overseas bonds, and the implied level of real yields. On all three, market worries are on the wrong track.

To begin with funding. Next year the PSBR may be £7 billion, which would imply gross gilt issues of perhaps £13 billion. Sounds a lot, compared with the gilt purchases of recent years, but it is not extraordinary compared with the issuance of a few years previously, even in nominal terms.

Indeed, the institutions' gilt

holdings are so low that issues of this size should be absorbed early — provided the economic fundamentals look right.

Furthermore, what sort of stock will the authorities be likely to issue? The answer is probably a bit of everything. But there is likely to be a bias against conventional longs (as we do) that British inflation will fall, to the ERM average and perhaps even lower, then it would be mad to issue large amounts of conventional longs at anywhere near present yield levels, for the implied real yield basis would be far too high.

Only when the market's expectations of inflation have caught up with the authorities' (and the nominal yield level is accordingly much lower) would it make sense to issue large amounts of conventional longs. (This is similar to the argument for introducing index-linked stocks in 1981.)

Instead they are likely to bias funding towards conventional shorts and mediums and index-linked stocks, as well as perhaps having a tendency to under-fund.

Indeed, if, as seems plausible, they have to intervene to support the pound, some of their funding would come directly from the official reserves, reducing the quantity of gilts needing to be sold.

Comparison with yields overseas looks more of a problem. The differential with French ten-year bonds is now down to little more than 1 per cent. With German bonds it is only slightly more than 2 per cent.

Given that the inflation rate is about 3½ per cent in France and 3 per cent in Germany, that differential looks low. But British inflation has far more

scope to fall and on a conservative estimate it looks likely to end next year at 4.5 per cent, with the likelihood of further falls in 1992.

These inflation forecasts also challenge the view that real yields are low enough on gilts in an absolute sense. The problem is one of perspective. Looking back over the past 20 years it is easy to say that present nominal yields are definitely low enough.

But there are five things that render this experience almost irrelevant.

First, the enormous structural changes in the British economy over the past ten years, which may bring a greater proportionate disinflationary effect in this downturn than in any other since the war.

Second, the depth of the recession, which could challenge, or even surpass that of 1979-81. Third, Britain's membership of the ERM, which is enforcing anti-inflationary discipline.

Fourth, the onset of world recessionary forces, which promises to bring world inflation rates much lower.

And last, the increasing worries about credit quality, which will place an added premium on government debt.

The upshot is that the gilt investor can look forward to next year's Christmas pudding costing hardly any more than this year's, and similarly for many more years. He should consult Mrs Beeton's records and discover when that was last true, noting the level of long yields at the time. Was it so long ago that the sump inside the pudding would pay for it?

ROGER BOOTLE  
Greenwell Morgan  
Gilt-Edged

## Smaller deals are thriving in tough market conditions

## Demise of the mega-buyouts

IF 1990 was not the year the management buyout bubble burst, it was certainly one of dramatic deflation. In the past, the market followed a fairly steady pattern of development with sets of annual figures, regularly showing more deals with a higher average value. This year, the average deal size fell back to £6 million, compared with £14.8 million in 1989.

Megadeals are simply not on the agenda. With high real interest rates and, until recently, sellers expecting relatively high values, the sums for leveraged deals just do not add up. Even if a mega-buyout were being considered, it is unlikely it could be financed. The banks that provided the towering structures of debt have effectively shut their leveraged buyout counters.

The buyout market has adapted to the new conditions. With the ponderous debt dinosaurs now extinct, smaller, more flexible and more sensibly structured deals have taken their place. In some respects the climate is more favourable to true management buyouts than during much of the late Eighties. Large companies looking to trim their balance sheets are accelerating their disposal plans.

The collapse of several large quoted companies, including Parkfield, Coloroll and Lowndes Queensway, has also provided a fertile breeding ground for smaller buyouts. Last year, only 0.4 per cent of buyouts were from companies in receivership. In 1990 that is likely to rise to about 14 per



Decline of the buy-in: David Smith, Isosceles chief

formative years of the buyout market in the early Eighties.

The recession has also forced the market to accept that management buyouts can fail too. Before 1989, receiverships of management buyouts and buy-ins were almost unknown — there were only eight in 1988 and none in 1986. Last year provided a foretaste of what was to come with 27 receiverships. This year the figure is likely to be as high as 60. For every ten new deals carried out in 1990, another existing deal went bust.

A significant factor has been management paying too much for companies in cyclical industries, backed by excessive amounts of debt and caged on by deal-hungry advisers. The development of mezzanine

teams could bridge the gap between what the equity and debt players would provide. But in too many cases the gap should not have been bridged.

The average level of senior debt in deals during the first half of 1990 remained constant at 60 per cent, but the level of mezzanine finance nearly halved to 10.8 per cent. The proportion of equity increased from an historically low 16.8 per cent in 1989 to a more respectable 22.2 per cent.

A further negative aspect of the market this year has been the decline of the management buy-in. Whereas the fall in the value of buyouts has been dramatic, for buy-ins it has been catastrophic. Admittedly last year's figure

by David Smith, chief executive, and Pembroke.

For the venture capitalists backing the deals, 1990 has been a year of portfolio management rather than deal making — a return to cold reality after the euphoria of the past three or four years.

Frank Neale, a partner at Philrow Ventures, predicts the industry will divide into the 'weak-willed, the 'too nice' and the competent.

In his view the weak-willed will sit by and watch their companies disappear, the too nice will pour money down the drain, backing existing management and strategy, and the competent 'will be those few that extract concessions from the refinancing process both in terms of management personnel and fundamental strategies'.

A fourth group he might have added are those players who will simply withdraw from an industry suffering from severe overcapacity. The process may take years, as several large funds are under no obligation to invest until 1991. 1994, but it has already begun.

Only a handful of the many institutions that entered the buyout game during the go-go years are seen to be leading deals, particularly at the larger end. In the long term this will be healthy for the market. The headline deals may have disappeared but the management buyout is now a well established mechanism for bringing about changes of corporate ownership in times of boom and recession.

## Mining marches up — and down

THE GRAND Old Duke of York has one up on the 1990 Mining Portfolio. He at least marched his men back to the spot from whence they started. Our five mining shares did march up the hill during the year. And they marched down again — but, sadly, they kept on marching, to finish the year in the pit.

The portfolio shows an average loss of 53.8 per cent. Had investors successfully identified the peak of each share during 1990 and sold, the average gain would have been 25.7 per cent. Real life, however, does not work that way.

This was a year when mining was an unloved sector. Base metal prices fell. The

in their wake, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August put only temporary fire under the gold price, and successive bouts of Saudi Arabian gold sales left even the bulls of gold disheartened.

A review of the selections for 1990:

Butte Mining was the dog that should have barked. Instead, it was just a dog. The South African gold

share, Harmony, which is heavily geared to a movement in the gold price, touched 849p at its peak. The international investment perception of South Africa remains uncertain, local mining costs remain high and the world gold price has been no help. Metallgesellschaft of Germany remains solid and a Rolls-Royce in its field. But the investment appeal that

seemed so promising for eastern Europe in January has not yet materialised. None the less, still worth holding.

Normandy Resources in Australia was picked for the man behind it — Robert Champion de Crespigny — rather than for the company's significant stake in Posidonia. But then 1990 was not a very happy year for many an Australian.

Finally, Zartland International — the iodine-nitrate project in Chile that changed its name to Atacama Resources and then was wrapped into KAP Resources. The project remains feasible, but the share never caught London's imagination. Mining selections for 1991

### HOW THEY FARED

Share	Start	High	Year's change %
Butte	28p	37p	-53.57
Harmony	505p	849p	-28.12
Metallgesellschaft	£229.93	£280.77	-35.15
Normandy	124p	129p	-66.94

Source: The Times

Source: The Times







# The Times Jumbo Sports Crossword

**THE Times** presents the traditional, festive challenge of the Jumbo Sports Crossword to test your sporting knowledge over the holiday period — with three luxury prizes for the best entries.

Our winner will have a choice of a first-class visit for two people to one of the leading sports events in the next three months; the runner-up will choose from the other two; and the third-placed entrant will take the

remaining one. Our three events are:  
The England v Cameroon football international — a replay of the World Cup quarter-final last July — at Wembley on February 6. Our winner and a companion will be the guests of Wembley for champagne reception and dinner in the Twin Towers Suite, special seats for the match, savouries afterwards and then an overnight stay at the Hilton National Hotel

next to the Wembley complex.  
The England v Scotland Calcutta Cup rugby union match at Twickenham on February 16, as the guests of Courage, sponsors of the English clubs championship. Our winner and his friend will enjoy the full VIP outing, including lunch and tea in the Courage hospitality unit.  
The Coral Golden Hurdle Final day at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival on

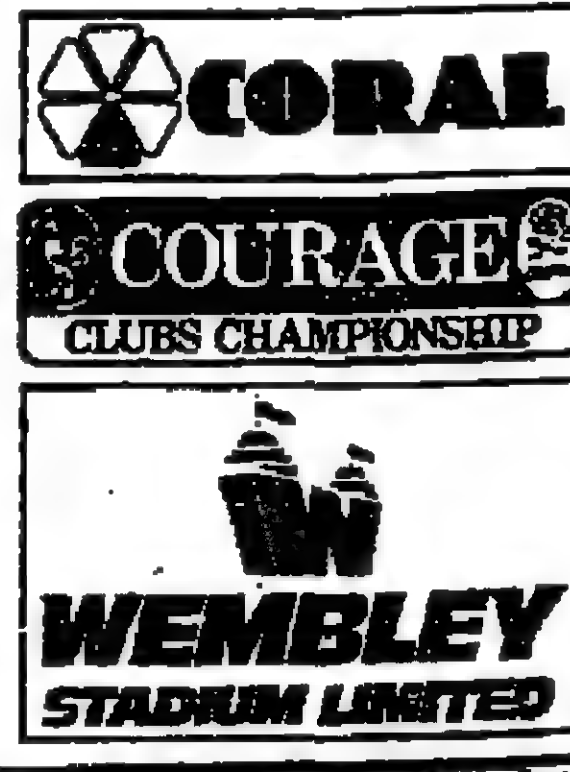
Wednesday, March 13. Our winner and a companion will be the guests of Coral for a champagne day out, with lunch in a suite overlooking the course, members' badges and passes for the paddock viewing area, and £50 towards travelling expenses.  
The sender of the first correct entry drawn from all those received by the closing date, January 4, will have first choice from the three events; the second the next

selection; and the third will win the remaining day out.  
There are special prizes for the next ten correct entries: five copies (autographed by the author) of *Ranji: A Genius Rich and Strange*, Simon Wilde's biography of Ranjitsinhji (published by Kingswood, £14.99) and five copies of *The IOC Best of Sport Photographic Book*, a collection of the best sports pictures of 1990 from around the world (marketed by

IMS/Studio 6, Lausanne, £20).

Send your completed crossword, with your name and address, by January 4 to: Jumbo Sports Crossword, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:** Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, Wembley Stadium, Courage and Coral and their agents are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence.



## STUDENT SPORT

### A hockey squad expected to shine

By Mike Lamb

A STRONG midfield comprising Phil McGuire (Teddington), Jon Roberts (Stourport), Neil Barker (Old Loughtonians) and Jason Lee (East Grinstead), all of whom are in the England senior indoor squad, will form the backbone of the British students team at the Los Reyes hockey tournament in Barcelona from January 4 to 6.

The squad, preparing for the World Student Games in Sheffield in July, contains seven full internationals, with a further four unavailable. Rob Thompson, David Luckes, Rob Hill and Jason Laslett are all eligible for the Games but will not be in programme. South Korea, Australia, the Netherlands and Germany are the teams most likely to contest medal positions with British Students.

Chester College have reached the semi-finals of the British students' hockey cup, and will meet Crewe and Alsager, the champions. Bedford will face Cardiff Institute in the other half. The men's championship awaits the result of the third-round tie between Cardiff Institute and St Mary's, the winners of which will play West London Institute, who have not conceded a goal, in the south semi-final. In the north semi-final, Crewe and Alsager, who beat last year's losing finalists, Jordanhill, 6-0 and have scored 20 goals with just one against, will meet Humberston.

Chester, with 12 goals from three matches, also figure in the semi-finals of the football championship, where they face Edge Hill in a home and away tie on January 30 and February 6, respectively. In the other semi-final, West London Institute will face strong opposition from Cheltenham and Gloucester, who beat Cardiff Institute, winners over last year's champions, St Mary's, Twickenham.

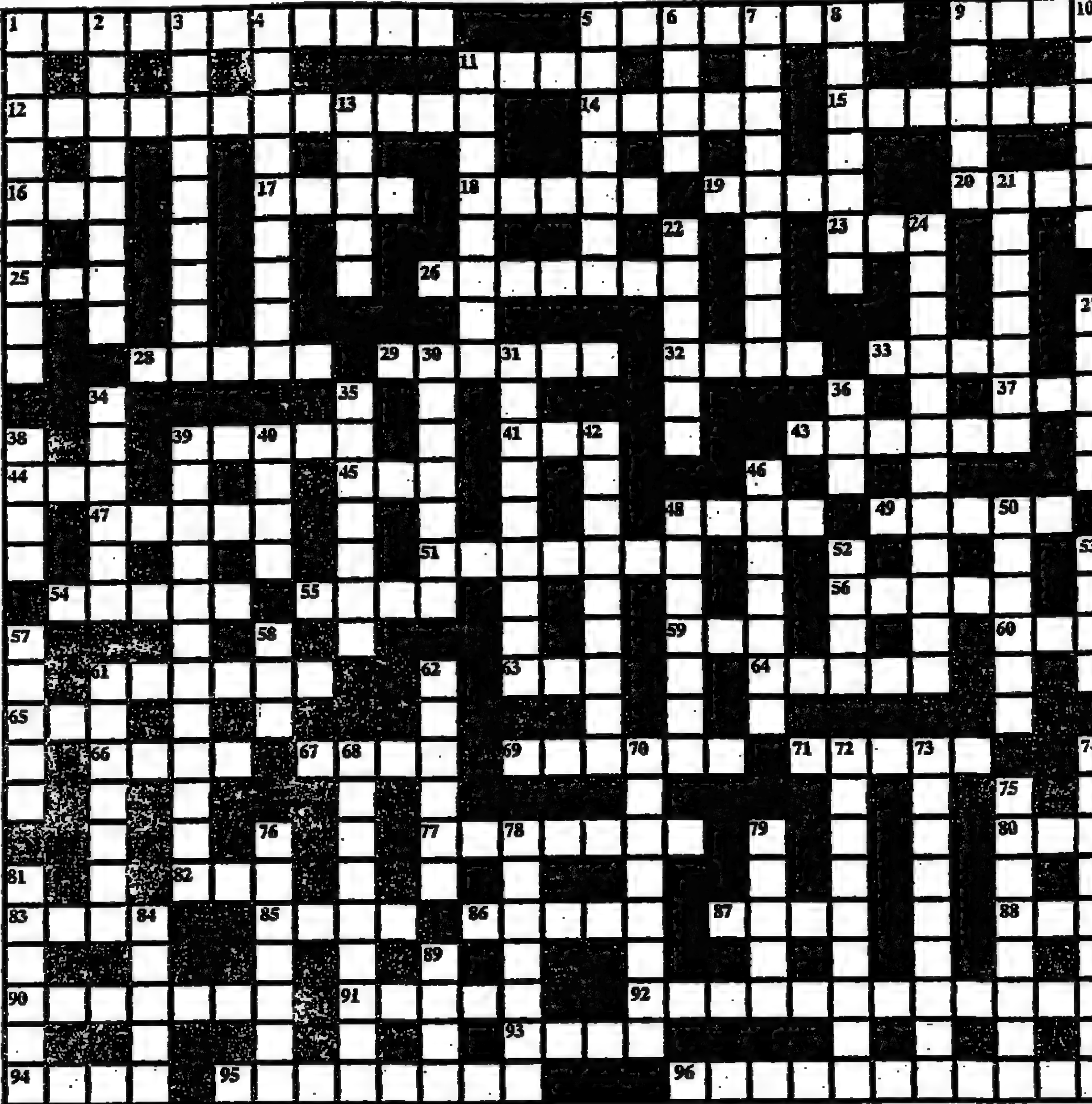
## ACROSS

- 1 He has managed better than most this year (11).
- 5 A field placing that could catch you on the hop (5, 3).
- 9 James, who went round the bend very quickly (4).
- 11 A rugby club for bargain hunters? (4).
- 12 A minor county fast bowler? (5, 7).
- 14 Free-wheel, possibly in a shore race (5).
- 15 Saw them for a London club (4, 3).
- 16 Try this for starters (3).
- 17 Was he just a boy when at home at Old Trafford and Maine Road? (4).
- 18 Sat in for a television talker (5).
- 19 Perhaps it is one of Gascoigne's (4).
- 20 A book from Brian Moore, for instance (4).
- 23 Judo exponents are desperate for this first (3).
- 25 A Scottish course, but not for golf (3).
- 26 A royal house at Pontypool? (7).
- 28 Gold in black in Rome and Tokyo (5).
- 29 England's cricketers need to get in gear for the Ashes (6).
- 32 The ultimate run (4).
- 33 Leslie, who could keep to a change of seam bowling (4).
- 37 Player part noticed at Twickenham (3).
- 39 On which you will often find Hubert (5).
- 41 Where ice hockey players go for their sins (3).
- 43 A big shot at the table? (6).
- 44 The goal footballers do not want to score (3).
- 45 Short of skill going downhill perhaps (3).
- 47 All track athletes get it (5).
- 48 At St Andrews and St George's (4).
- 49 For the boxer who wants to mix it (5).
- 51 Batsmen and rowers are lost without them (7).
- 54 A Warwickshire maiden? (5).
- 55 Sir Richard Hadlee bent his this year (4).
- 56 Singular addition (5).
- 59 Boat Race propellant (3).

- 60 Harris, Matthews or Simpson (3).
- 61 Conway on ice (6).
- 63 Del boy of Real Madrid (3).
- 64 Kornelia, who finished well (5).
- 65 Pele's partner (3).
- 66 Only Fontaine (4).
- 67 Shea changed for tennis (4).
- 69 He now hooks on the golf course (6).
- 71 Sportsmen who take one of these can get in trouble (5).
- 77 Might he ride Come To Grand-Daddy? (7).
- 80 A hit-and-miss shot (3).
- 82 Initially, the footballers' union (3).
- 83 One of 24 at Le Mans (4).
- 85 A western style of jumping (4).
- 86 Boxers do not like to be out for it (5).
- 87 Andy, of Villa or Palace (4).
- 88 Stephen Hendry is successful at the end of it (3).
- 90 To adorn a yacht? (7).
- 91 Wrestling for everybody (3, 2).
- 92 Not everything's equal in the gym (8, 4).
- 93 They're at home at Oxford and Plough Lane (4).
- 94 Watch my lips for change of fielding (4).
- 95 They are hard to match in front of goal (8).
- 96 It causes quite a stir at the bottom (6, 5).

- DOWN**
- 1 Batsmen need one when facing bouncers (9).
  - 2 Butcher will not be silenced here (8).
  - 3 Where Robson is adding initials to his career (9).
  - 4 The tightest possible finish (5, 4).
  - 5 They are always being called out in boxing (7).
  - 6 Shape of Kennington and Kensington (4).
  - 7 They've had more than their share of trouble this year (9).
  - 8 Gareth, who passed this way for Cardiff and Wales (7).
  - 9 Perhaps a kick in error in the long jump pit (5).
  - 10 A place of worship at Goodison? (6).
  - 11 Having a great time on

- court (6).
- 13 He (and she) carries a lot of responsibility (5).
- 21 Men rose for a Wimbledon winner (7).
- 22 Ambridge sportsman (6).
- 24 A former footballer infamous for his appetite (6, 6).
- 27 Lofted shots with everything (5).
- 30 See clip for stakes at Sandown (7).
- 31 The highest flier on course (9).
- 34 Boxers are no chickens at this weight (6).
- 35 One of the desired effects of seam bowling (7).
- 36 It goes to the head of the best (3).
- 38 A name ground into history (4).
- 39 Potter's art (12).
- 40 Changed at half-time (4).
- 42 Find a lock for a master (4, 5).
- 46 Middlesex and Brentford Patsy (7).
- 48 The name Margaret Du Pont answered to in her singles game (7).
- 50 The All Black Boot (6).
- 52 Lawton used his to great effect (4).
- 53 A heavyweight champion in 1984 (4).
- 57 The Russian sisters who partly impressed (5).
- 58 The value of red (3).
- 61 A self-defence (2-5).
- 62 Brian, who dived for a medal (6).
- 68 Striking Italian (9).
- 70 Racing drivers halt at mine (3, 5).
- 72 Rob Andrew, for instance, got his with Cambridge (5, 4).
- 73 England captain with a shilling (3, 6).
- 74 Men or nets for a Wembley hat-trick (9).
- 75 The Brockton Blockbuster (8).
- 76 Caged in snooker? (7).
- 78 Gun rods for the places that matter in sport (7).
- 79 Bueno in tennis (5).
- 81 Plural in billiards (6).
- 84 The bowlers' approach (3, 2).
- 89 Fred, who handled with care for Preston (4).



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Source: UK NRS January 1990 - June 1990.



Strength in depth proves crucial as players prosper without the pressure of competing for rugby union points

## Wasps reserve their best for Park

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENTRosslyn Park ..... 10  
Wasps ..... 50

WASPS had promised before the match that they were out to enjoy themselves, and so they did, plundering five goals and five tries to a try and two penalty goals. At the end of the first half they were leading 10-0. Amid the festive it does, though, beg the serious question of whether clubs cannot play the same game when the league comes round — particularly when they are as well blessed with good players as Wasps.

That was the substantial difference between the teams. It has been a good-ish season for Rosslyn Park, who have been able to field a virtually unchanged XV during their league matches, but only three of them were on the field on Saturday. Wasps had a stronger complement available but their depth of quality is greater — only Jan Bonney, last year's England colts wing, has yet to have a decent run in the senior side.

The league match last month was a fair affair, won 13-10 by Wasps, but they let their hair down with a vengeance, and no one profited more than Mickey Harris and Phil Hopley. Each scored three tries, Harris benefitting from his pack's supremacy at the scrums which enabled him to expose a somewhat tenuous back-row defence in open play, as well as to dot down two simple scores from pushovers.

Hopley, somewhat implausibly described in these columns last week as younger brother of Damian, the 20-year-old England B centre, when he has in fact qualified as a doctor, plays in similar style to his sibling. An upright carriage with powerful, long strides made him a hard man for the Park midfield to halt; if anybody aged dramatically over the weekend it was Park's centres.



Over the Moon: Harris, the Wasps flanker, evades the Rosslyn Park captain's clutches for one of his three tries at Roehampton on Saturday

Hopley would acknowledge, though, the assistance given by Chids. The centre, who toured with England during the summer, was not among the scorers but his quick hands and timing of the pass did much to overcome any hesitation displayed by Lozowski, out of position at stand-off half.

John Elliott, the England selector, turned up to check on Randall's return to action and watch Holmes' performance at tight-head prop, but whether he learned much of value is debatable. Holmes was playing against a reserve front row which, like most other areas of the Park side, spent the afternoon trying to plug

the gaps. None did better in that respect than Moon, the captain — one splendid covering tackle on Smith halted yet another flowing Wasps move from long range — and he scored his side's only try.

That made the half-time difference 28-4, and the Park's brisk start to the second half, with the encouragement of the

wind and two penalties by Graves, hinted at a recovery. But the backs, who lost Cook and Risman either side of the interval, were entirely out of sorts, and it was typical of the match that the final try came when Smith purred past the pursuing Brooks. Park's hooker — in pursuit of White's intelligent kick ahead.

## Spanish excursion provides some useful intelligence

FROM ALAN LORIMER  
IN SEVILLESpain ..... 7  
Scotland A ..... 39

WHATEVER else Scotland's quarter of coaches may have gleaned from watching this match in Seville on Saturday, their inescapable conclusion must have been that the selectors had chosen much too strong a team.

In a sense, circumstances dictated this. The A team was supposed to help rehabilitation of several leading players who had missed part of the early months of the season. As these included Derek White, Damien Cronin and Derek Turnbull, Scotland were guaranteed forward domination.

Scotland were also experimenting with Graham Marshall as open-side flanker. The Seville player, who has been playing at No. 8 for his club and district, came through impressively but the coaches may consider that the strength of the opposition was inadequate.

White not only assisted the excellent lineout work of Doddie Weir and Cronin but also created three of the Scotland tries with his rapid detachment from the back of the scrum. On each occasion, his linkage with either Oliver, the scrum half, or supporting forwards, was expertly extended and the prime beneficiary was Iwan Tukalo, who scored two first-half tries from such moves.

Tukalo, who was dropped by Scotland after the first international match against New Zealand last summer, crossed again in the second half. But the Seville wing, although he showed his flair for finishing off moves, was not tested to any extent in defence, the side in which he was perceived to be vulnerable in New Zealand.

The other backs to score were Oliver and the Moseley centre, Kuari Maclean, who was the

most penetrative of the Scotland three-quarters. After a year out of the game through injury he has certainly not lost his case for inclusion at B level.

Scotland's other two tries were scored by Cronin and Weir and four of the seven were converted by the captain, Peter Dods, who also kicked a penalty. His leadership was certainly an important factor and he was totally safe under the high ball and in the tackle. Dods also did much to involve Scotland's new right wing, Mark Moncrieff, who had one memorable 50-metre run before being tackled just short of the line.

Of the other new players, Donald Castle, of Gloucester, was praised by Derek Grant, one of the coaches, for his tackling while the new props, Gary Isaac, of Gals, and Graeme Smith, of Moseley, put sufficient pressure on their opponents to help John Allan to three strikes against the head.

Spain, after losing two of their World Cup qualifying matches in October and to the Emerging Australian XV last month, simply did not have the strength up front to contest this game. Defensively, however, they were committed and for the first 20 minutes Scotland found it difficult to turn their possession into points.

When Spain did have the chance to move the ball they looked dangerous and scored an excellent try in the second half through their centre, Jorge Moreno, from a short penalty move.

SCORES: Spain: Try: Moreno; Penalty: Moreno; Conversion: Moreno. Scotland: Try: Tukalo; Conversion: Dods; Penalty: Dods. Scotland A: Try: White; Conversion: Oliver; Penalty: Oliver. Scotland B: Try: White; Conversion: Oliver; Penalty: Oliver.

## Ireland promote busy Saunders

ROB Saunders, the London Irish scrum half, named promotion to the Ireland training squad with an outstanding display in Ireland B's 16-0 victory over Scotland B in the mud and rain of Ravenhill on Saturday.

Saunders, who has yet to play for Ulster, and his back row were the linchpin of an invigorating Irish display which produced victory by a goal, a try and two penalty goals to all despite the dismissal in the first quarter of Brian Rigney, the Greystones lock.

Saunders was one of four players added yesterday to the Ireland squad, now 32 strong, which leaves on Thursday for warm-weather training in the Algarve. Brian Rigney, of Ballymore, also uncapped, was a success at No. 8 and will go, along with Brendan Mullin and John Sexton, who have both recovered from hand injuries.

Rigney will also go to the Algarve, despite being sent off for punching by Steve Griffiths, the newest member of England's international refereeing panel. Rigney has been suspended for three weeks, but because of a hand injury will play no match while training, his attendance is not affected.

The match was a substantial triumph for Ireland, notably for Hamilton, the NIFC flanker, who was prominent throughout. Well led by Leahy, they took the lead in the first half with a penalty goal by McAleese and confirmed their advantage just after the interval when Rigney completed a forward surge.

McAleese added a second penalty goal and converted a try by Hernan as the seven Irish forwards consistently indicated their superiority.

SCORES: Ireland B: Try: Curran; Conversion: McAleese. Scotland B: Try: Curran; Conversion: McAleese. Ireland A: Try: Curran; Conversion: McAleese. Ireland B: Try: Curran; Conversion: McAleese.

## The hosts come to the party

FROM A CORRESPONDENT  
IN TOULOUSEToulouse ..... 21  
Queensland ..... 10

THE city of Toulouse has been reveling in the centenary celebrations of the Stade Toulousain club but, Queensland, by far the taller and heavier side, were favoured to deny the hosts the final satisfaction of winning their own trophy in the Toulouse Masters, the on-field element of the party.

Yet fulfilment was not to be denied. On an afternoon of drama, Toulouse played a fast-moving game based on almost frenzied driving in the loose by their small pack and on the deftness of their passing under pressure behind the scrum. Earlier, Fiji had provided the perfect warm-up, with 12 irresistible tries in a 60-19 win over Bath for third place.

Thankfully, what military planners call the worst-case scenario did not come about in the final. There was an undercurrent of anger and one disgraceful fight between Ryan and Gerard Portolan. However, Queenslanders played a full-scale riot given that television highlights of the Toulouse v Bath semi-final had revealed some appalling sneak punching by Toulouse players.

The touch was decided when Ryan and Portolan were falling away, because Cazaubon was driven over in a rush of players to take the score to 21-10 inside the last five minutes of the match. The last five minutes were similarly compelling — Bonnevillé fly-kicked the ball out of deep defence and scored, after a thrilling chase, with a somersault as he crossed the line and later, in the second half, Carozza finished off a memorable Queensland move with a try near the left corner.

Ultimately, Queensland lacked the inspired attack to add to their mighty appetite for the occasion and they clearly missed Lynch, the one leading player unable to travel to Toulouse. Kahl, his replacement at stand-off half, struggled to add to their backs with pace, they could have scored at least four more tries and, in fact, were never disgraced. It was simply that Fiji, inspired by a remarkable treble by the spiritless Ruzarski, were playing on a different level.

Source: Toulouse: Try: Bonnevillé; Conversion: Cazaubon; Penalty: Lynch. Queensland: Try: Lynch; Conversion: Lynch; Penalty: Lynch.

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## Waldron's worries recede a shade

By BRYAN STILES

Neath ..... 12  
Swansea ..... 0

RON Waldron probably has the best known beard in Wales, and certainly the deepest, worry lines. Anybody charged with the responsibility of reassembling the shattered fragments of Welsh rugby pride, so liberally splashed with whitewash last season, deserves to be allowed to wander the rugby stadiums with a permanent frown. It goes with the job.

He does not have a monopoly on worry lines in the Principality, though. They are writ large on the national conscience. The whitewash was the source of unprecedented distress in Wales and, so far, Waldron's response as national coach on seeing a red Welsh jersey is to colour it black. Neath black, the lament is that too many of his old pupils at Neath have found themselves in the Wales team.

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## Apsee's thrust is decisive

By GERALD DAVIES

Pontypool ..... 11  
Bridgend ..... 15

WITH 12 minutes left of the match there was only one solitary, sorry-looking note in my mind which went away to reflect. I must hastily add, the indistinct nature of the second half rather than any likely mooching pre-Christmas mood on my part. "Ald Williams kicked a penalty in the first minute," it stated bluntly.

There was nothing much to record after that except for the general impression of two teams still scrambling to come to terms with each other's disorder, which no doubt had something to do with the sloppy, drizzling weather.

That Bridgend won by a goal and three penalties to two tries and a penalty was mainly because of the accuracy of Ald Williams' line-kicking — of which kind of kicking there was

## Bibby too precious to replace

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

Wakefield ..... 10  
Orrell ..... 20

THE extent of the gulf dividing the two clubs in the Courage Clubs Championship from the rest was starkly illustrated at College Grove on Saturday, where Orrell defeated Wakefield by a 20-10 score.

The match produced a fascinating duel between two fine scrum halves, Scully and Morris, yet had there been a man-of-the-match award it would surely have gone to Orrell's young No. 8, Bibby. Fit, strong and determined, he only needs to improve the timing of his passing to emerge as a player of real class. It will be hard for Charles Cusani, recovered from injury, to supplant him.

Wakefield somehow kept their line intact for 20 minutes until a fierce drive by Bibby gave Morris his chance to pick up and put Ainsworth in. A similar scenario was the prelude to the speedy Cusani's try and Bibby again split Wakefield's defence to set up Brierley's try which Ainsworth converted to give Orrell their 14-0 interval lead.

Wakefield rallied in the second half, Scully ripping the ball from Bibby and Harrison scoring from his precise chip. Showing great strength, Morris then took three Wakefield men almost to the line and when Strett received he bowled an overhead pass, which Ainsworth collected to score.

The final try was scored for Wakefield by Ransley for a couple of simple penalties.

SCORES: Wakefield: Try: Harrison; Conversion: Harrison; Penalty: Harrison. Orrell: Try: Bibby; Conversion: Bibby; Penalty: Bibby.

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# No love lost in a disgraceful affair

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

NEVER can the season of goodwill have been poisoned with such malevolence as at White Hart Lane on Saturday. Three players were sent off as Tottenham Hotspur beat Luton Town 2-1, four more were cautioned and, to complete an afternoon infected with physical and verbal unpleasantness, the captain of England was accused of being a cheat.

At the centre of the mayhem was David Ellery, a strict disciplinarian whose early warnings were contemptuously ignored. Neither Tottenham nor Luton, therefore, can use the referee as a convenient excuse for a disgraceful affair which long before the end had been reduced to an almost unprecedented farce.

The players alone were to blame, but instead of condemning their misconduct, the managers showed few signs of remorse. "I'm not going to criticise my team too much," Terry Venables said. "If I could give them more than ten points out of ten, I would."

His elation was partly understandable. Tottenham, having collected only one point out of a possible nine, were rapidly dropping out of contention. To recover from an early deficit and go on to win with only nine men was an extraordinary achievement. The victory was, in the words of Venables, "sensational".

Yet they excavated the seemingly bottomless pit in which they found themselves. Had Nayim and van den Hauwe not lost their heads, there would have been no need for Tottenham to advertise the merits of a 4-3-1, and eventually a 4-4-0, formation for the closing 52 minutes.

Both of their miscreants might have been expelled

before they were. Nayim timed his offences every quarter of an hour. The first, though cynical, earned him merely a booking. The second, borne out of childish petulance, had not appeared to warrant another yellow card.

After conceding a free kick he failed to retreat ten yards, but the referee later stipulated that Nayim had been guilty of "foul and abusive language", a crime which necessitates instant dismissal. On the other flank, van den Hauwe was offering a frightening impersonation of a volcano waiting to erupt.

Midway through the first half, and directly in front of the dug-outs, he exploded with an assault which threatened to dismember Black. In spite of a stern lecture from the referee, van den Hauwe refused to cool down, and a dozen minutes later he launched himself forcefully at Dowie.

The left back's grotesque challenge on Dowie, who was mercifully unhurt, provoked a heated argument among those seated on the nearby benches. The game was then hurtling towards outright warfare.

Sense and tempers were restored during the interval. Jim Ryan spent the whole of it telling the Luton players "to be careful, to avoid getting involved and not to show dissent". Venables was conveying the same message in the other dressing-room and the second half was staged amid comparative peace.

It did not last long for Hughes. On the hour he was also ordered off, although his tackle on Lineker, after the whistle had already been blown, deserved no more than a yellow card. Under-21 international was a victim of a deliberate deception, according to Dreyer. Luton's captain later ex-



Striding out: Johnson, of Luton Town (left), takes on Walsh, of Tottenham Hotspur, at White Hart Lane

pressed his conviction that Lineker, who has been known to look as though he is auditioning for an amateur dramatic society, felt theatrically. Dreyer weakened his case immediately when, without being touched, he dived inside Tottenham's area in a vain attempt to gain a penalty.

The names of McDonough, Dowie, Sedgley and Harvey were taken, all for fouls. "There was a bit of feeling out there," Ryan said. Bit of feeling? That is equivalent to describing the second world war as a slight skirmish. Venables conceded that "emotions were stirred once we were down to ten men".

The misbehaviour was at least laced with entertainment. Luton, competing against 11 men against ten or nine, took the lead through Dowie and then, to Tottenham's convenience and everybody else's bemusement, slowed down the pace of their attacks. "That was stupid," Ryan said.

Stewart, with the enterprising assistance of Gascoigne, scored both of Tottenham's goals before playing a prominent defensive role. He was one of few individuals to emerge with any credit from an occasion coated with shame.

## Sheffield United win at last

Sheffield United finally broke their first division duck on Saturday in thrilling fashion, beating Nottingham Forest 3-2 — seven days after equalling Hull City's record of 16 games without a win from the start of the season.

United had the better of a scrappy opening half, with Jones going close twice before Ian Bryson swept them into the lead, finishing off a long throw by Jones three minutes after the interval.

Forest equalised immediately, Parker threading the ball to Keane, who coolly slotted it past the advancing Tracey from 12 yards.

Pearce put Forest ahead in the 57th minute with a left-foot shot from just inside the area, but Bryson was in the right spot again two minutes later to head in a centre from Bradshaw. Deane headed the winner in the 66th minute, his ninth goal of the season.

● PARIS: Lothar Matthäus, who captained the World Cup winners, West Germany, was named European footballer of the year yesterday (AFP reports). Matthäus, aged 29, who plays for Inter Milan, was well clear of his closest rival, Salvatore Schillaci, of Italy, the leading goalscorer in the competition. Paul Gascoigne, of Tottenham Hotspur and England, was fourth.

## Lack of ambition turns out costly

By IAN ROSS

Liverpool 3  
Southampton 2

WHILE few managers could honestly admit to relishing games at Anfield, the experience would appear to have its compensations, irrespective of the outcome.

Chris Nicholl, of Southampton, is one of an elite band of managers who can shield his disappointment by taking solace where he can find it. But by declaring that he was "encouraged" by what he saw, Nicholl could be accused of condoning the lack of adventure which ultimately brought about his side's downfall.

He should perhaps have simply acknowledged that a narrow defeat at the hands of English football's most accomplished outfit can often be regarded as a minor victory.

Having watched, and occasionally outplayed, their opponents for 60 minutes of a quite absorbing game, Southampton, like so many sides before them, made the fatal mistake of attempting to consolidate when there was still much hard work to be done.

Liverpool, never more dangerous than when victory was within grasp, stole a victory which for lengthy spells had seemed unlikely.

Had Southampton played

throughout with the refreshing spirit which illuminated their more prosperous moments, victory could have been theirs, for even when they stumbled awkwardly midway through a frenetic first half their football was calmer and more thoughtful.

The disappointment of seeing Wallace's magnificent goal in the eighteenth minute cancelled out by Rosenbath's assured touch at the far post a quarter of an hour later was swiftly overcome. Even a second, equally calculating, goal by the Israeli international shortly before the interval did not disrupt to any great degree Southampton's impressive rhythm and purpose.

When Wallace dispossessed Hyson and skipped around Grobbelaar to score in the fiftieth minute it seemed highly probable that one of Liverpool's less fluent performances would, for once, be met with a suitable punishment. It was not to be.

Houghton's spectacular volley five minutes from the end served only to prove that, at Anfield, fortune will always favour the brave and that the meek shall inherit nothing more than the hollow praise of their manager.

LIVERPOOL: G. Hysen, D. Brown, S. McMahon, G. Hysen, R. Rosenbath, A. Houghton, I. Rush, J. Barnes, S. McMahon.

## Chelsea begin to fulfil potential

By DENNIS SIGNSY

Chelsea 2  
Coventry City 1

TWO late goals by Andy Townsend and Dennis Wise, who cost a combined £2.8 million in the summer to spearhead Chelsea's ambitions, extended the club's sequence of victories to seven games, five of them in the League, and elevated them to sixth in the table.

While Chelsea continue to fulfil their exciting potential, Terry Butcher, the Coventry player-manager, was left considering his fitness for a return to the side against Tottenham Hotspur on Boxing Day in a bid for a first League win since he succeeded John Sillit.

Bobby Campbell, the Chelsea manager, smilingly concedes that his side's run of success coincides with the appointment of John Major, a Chelsea supporter, as prime minister.

More to the point is the shake-up after a disappointing 2-1 defeat at Wimbledon on November 17 that left the side fourth in the table. Young players have been introduced instead of established internationals. Five of the present side are aged under 22: Lee, aged just 21, has played more than 80 minutes since August 21, is a Welsh international.

Cundy, 21 in November, was

voiced man of the match after an outstanding performance in only his tenth game at senior level. Stuart, aged 20, who replaced Monkou when he went off with a hamstring injury after 34 minutes, is a product of the FA School of Excellence and a fine prospect.

Chelsea, unbeaten at Stamford Bridge for ten months, dominated. Yet they went behind after 37 minutes when an overhead kick by Speedie, the former Chelsea player, was cleared off the goal line and Gallagher slipped in his ninth goal of the season.

It might have been worse. Cundy slid from nowhere to clear off the line from Regis nine minutes later, with some Coventry players adamant he had handled in the process.

The pursuit might admire their defensive organisation, but for the neutral spectators, including the England manager, Graham Taylor, the pace and ability of Ian Wright, who scored a stunning second goal, gave the game its one flash of quality.

What a pity Wright is not given more opportunity to show off his range of talents. In this era of greater emphasis on attacking football, Palace, under a manager who made his name

## Wright provides a touch of class

By PETER BALL

Manchester City 0  
Crystal Palace 2

MANCHESTER City's first defeat since Peter Reid was appointed manager was a frustrating one as his side helped contrive their own downfall as their familiar defensive flaws surfaced once again. Unlike last week's high-flying London visitors, Tottenham, Crystal Palace may not win many friends with their style, but their greater effectiveness was unarguable as they stifled the home team and pounced on City's mistakes.

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## More woe for Celtic

By PETER BALL

So it was on Saturday. It was not pretty, but with Maryn making two splendid early saves and Young and Thorn forming an unyielding central defence, it was mightily effective, particularly as Mr Barratt turned an unseeing eye to a niggling approach, compounded by two challenges which recalled the worst moments of the FA Cup final replay.

The second, by Thomas on Reid, briefly threatened to go further as Reid got up to pursue his assailant, but Thomas shrugged off that challenge and followed up attempts at revenge by Megson and Heath, and things quietened down after a heated verbal exchange.

City were no more successful in a footballing sense, as after half an hour of one-way traffic, yet another defensive error undermined them. Pointon, having been brilliantly thwarted twice by Murray, beating his own goalkeeper with an attempt to put the ball behind. From then on, Palace kept nine, sometimes ten, men behind the ball, but Wright on his own was almost enough, and he ended comeback hopes as he destroyed Redmond, and beat Coton with a perfectly placed low drive.

MANCHESTER CITY: A. Coton, J. Sheehan, S. Reid, P. Reid, C. Hendry, S. Redmond, D. White, A. Heath, N. Quinn, G. Megson, M. Barratt, J. Sheehan, J. Murray, A. Wright, A. Gray, E. Young, J. Thorn, J. Salako, G. Thomas, M. Barratt, J. Wright, E. McGee, C. Hendry.

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## WEEKEND RESULTS, TABLES AND SCORERS

Barclays League									
First division									
Chelsea	3	Coventry	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Utd	1
Liverpool	3	Soton	2	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1
Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Utd	1	Sheff Utd	1
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## FOOTBALL

## Gould helps bring new resolve and an end to the slide

By DENNIS SHAW

## Derby County

QPR

A MEANER, more combative Queen's Park Rangers, reinvigorated by the arrival of Bobby Gould as Don Howe's No. 2 as well as two defenders, were a frustrating 25 seconds away from claiming their first victory in ten matches yesterday.

Derby County needed injury time to break down a battling team which had previously lost nine games in succession. Saunders' third goal of the season, gratefully touched over the line as the referee took his final time check, equalised Weir's first-half strike.

The fact that such a performance was so long in arriving was entirely down to Rangers' recent hurried remodelling, on and off the field.

Gould's influence was never in doubt. He even shouted more loudly and more often from the dugout than Arthur Cox, the volatile home manager.

Out on the pitch, the even

greater impact in Derby's frustration was supplied by the recent signings, Darren Peacock, at £200,000 from Hereford, and Andy Tinson, for £500,000 from Grimsby. The two long-legged imports from the lower reaches compensated at last for the lengthy loss, though injury, of Paul Parker and Alan McDonald.

With Peacock close-marking Harford, Maddix on Saunders and Tinson sweeping behind them, Rangers gave nothing away at the back. And, until Mickelwhite's hard-driven cross from the left rebounded off the defence, the system looked likely to earn that first win in ten weeks.

Not only were Derby previously denied meaningful chances but throughout they found themselves harassed and deprived of space at every turn. It was almost as though they were playing Wimbledon.

Derby were never allowed to get their act together. Worse, they were panicked into a rare and expensive mistake, in the 33rd minute, by Wright, the England defender. Caught undecided, as

Barter accepted a free kick by Wilkins and knocked the ball into the danger zone, Wright meekly tapped it a few yards forward.

It went straight to the feet of Weir, whose shot hit the underside of the bar before bouncing down for his fourteenth goal of the season. Rangers defended that lead desperately as Derby worked up steam increasingly throughout a frantic second half.

"It was more of a scrap than a football match," Howe said afterwards. "I was delighted with the way the two new players settled in after only one real training session with them."

The Rangers captain, Wilkins, said: "We thought that at last we had ended our appalling run without a win but a football match lasts 90 minutes."

DERBY COUNTY: P. Shilton; M. Sage, N. Saunders, P. Wilkins, G. McDonald, D. Peacock, M. Harford, T. Haddock (capt); G. Harford.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: J. Wright; D. Barter, K. Sansom, A. Tinson, D. Peacock, D. Maddix, R. Weir, S. Barker, M. Sains, R. Wilson, S. Barker, K. J. Brown.

being caught offside. Power, potentially, seemed to think he deserved a two-yard margin in the linesman's judgement.

By my reckoning, Everton's formation was more an intelligent 3-4-3 formation: Ratcliffe behind Keown and Watson, the former Norwich captain, who marked Rosario and Power right back, McDonald, operating flexibly in midfield with Ebbrell, Atteveld and Hinchcliffe against the Norwich quartet of Gordon, Crook, Sherwood and Phillips; and Nevill, Newell and Corrie/Sharp playing up front. Nevill, put clear by Nevill's job, would have scored after nine minutes but for Gordon's close-range save.

Nowhere huffed and puffed to no avail, and it was only when a one-handed save on the half-hour that kept out Nevill's far post header. Moments later Norwich were in front. Rosario forced a fine save out of Gordon, then Gordon, weaving in past two men on the left, struck the foot of the post and there was Poisson, of all people, following through, to smack the rebound into the roof of the net for his first league goal.

Norwich began to get a grip for a while at the start of the second half, and twice Rosario set up moves which might have increased the lead. I wished that the injured Fox had been there to test Everton's uncertainties.

Obligated to push forward in search of the equaliser, Everton should have got it. From Nevill's cross, Sharp had a header saved one-handed right on the line by Gordon, and a cross, which by Nevill was turned away by Gurney at full stretch. Reluctantly, the 14,000 crowd had something to keep them warm.

MOORE CITY: S. Gurney; M. Keown, M. Rosario, M. Poisson, M. Gordon, L. Power, T. Sherwood, M. B. Smith, D. Phillips, D. Ebbrell, D. Atteveld, D. Hinchcliffe, D. Ratcliffe, D. Keown, M. Watson, M. McDonald, M. Harford, T. Haddock, M. Sains, R. Wilson, S. Barker, K. J. Brown.

torquay struggle on a slippery slope

AT THE beginning of last month, Torquay United leading the fourth division by eight points. This morning, they are in third place, trailing Northampton Town by a point and Burnley on goal difference.

United, at Watling Street on Saturday, they would have returned to the top but they drew 2-2, letting slip a two-goal half-time lead. In the process, they lost their unbeaten record, which had lasted for 11 matches.

Until then, there had been nothing much between the two teams, neither seeming to know what to do with the ball when they had it. Torquay, the league leader for 34 minutes, when Elliott forced home Saunders' corner, and extended it nine minutes later through Tynan.

This was Tynan's 25th League goal and he cannot have scored many more. Receiving the ball 30 yards out, he spotted John off his line and chipped the ball over him.

Maidstone pulled one back in the second half with a goal, which Dave Smith, the manager of Torquay, thought almost as good as Tynan's. Butler collected Gould's cross on the edge of the penalty area, beat two men, swivelled, and shot low past Howells.

Maidstone pressed forward and when Galt burst through from the halfway line, Lloyd jumped to stop him and was left in obvious distress. He was quickly carried off to hospital.

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## SKIING



Gateway to success: Furuseth winning the slalom in Yugoslavia

## Costly slip by World Cup leader

MORZINE, France (AP) — Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa of Spain, the World Cup women's slalom here on Saturday after Petra Kronberger, of Austria, had faltered on the first run. Fernandez-Ochoa had a combined time of 1 min 46.80sec, leaving Fogdore 0.15 seconds behind. It was the second runner-up spot for the young Swede in four World Cup slalom races this season.

On Saturday, he and Furuseth profited from a mistake by Alberto Tomba, of Italy, who missed a gate in the first heat.

"My next step should be a victory in a World Cup race," Fogdore said. "For now I'm satisfied with what I have achieved so far. I didn't even dream about this success before the start of this season."

Furuseth and Fogdore were also 1-2 in the previous World Cup slalom in Madarsa, Di Campiglio, Italy, last Tuesday.

Tomba still leads the overall standings with 97 points, but with the Saturday triumph, Furuseth is second, nine points behind the Italian. "It was very difficult, but I'm happy that I won," said Furuseth who fell in a giant slalom on Friday won by Tomba. "I had to fight hard to beat Fogdore, who will be a tough rival in the coming slaloms."

Cup leader, Furuseth, won by 0.53sec in the first run, but had

## Furuseth seizes on Tomba's mistake

KRANSKA GORA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Ole Christian Furuseth, of Norway, cruised to his second World Cup slalom success of the season on Saturday, finishing ahead of Tomas Fogdore, of Sweden, helped by the disqualification of Alberto Tomba.

Furuseth's aggregate time was 1 min 46.80sec, leaving Fogdore 0.15 seconds behind. It was the second runner-up spot for the young Swede in four World Cup slalom races this season.

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dominate the front of the court and make winners out of many of his opponent's best shots.

The stylish Smith-Bingham fought back valiantly in the third game from 5-12 down to 12-13, taking the initiative and hitting a string of spectacular backhand winners but he missed a couple of chances through over-eagerness, allowing the clinical Windows to clinch the match.

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dominate the front of the court and make winners out of many of his opponent's best shots.

## ATHLETICS

## Ailing Wallace lacks the puff when it counts

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

LUCK has been against Andrea Wallace, Britain's leading woman cross-country runner, these past few weeks. She won the first World Cross Challenge race in Bolton, France, last month only to be told that her victory would not count; yesterday, trying to make amends, she finished fourth in the second race in Ninove, Belgium, beaten as much by recent illness, she thought, as the opposition.

Wallace was in Bolton when she was in the lead, but the race was annulled because there were fewer than the stipulated 12 athletes in the field who met World Cross Challenge standards. Yesterday, the number was exceeded comfortably.

Wallace was blowing away the cobwebs of a three-week cold; cobwebs do not always disappear at first blow and when the big puff came at the finish, she was puffing wanting. Two Africans and a Belgian beat her to the line.

Rwanda provided the winner and was not, for once, casting envious glances at its international successful neighbour.

## Marathon effort over

KIM McDonald, Peter Elliott's coach, has been forced to abandon his ambitious plan to help Kenya discover new marathon talent (David Powell writes). He returned from Nairobi on the weekend "angry and disappointed" that his permit to stage a trial race, in order to set up a marathon squad, had been withdrawn.

McDonald, whose management agency represents many of the world's leading athletes, was to have staged a half-marathon in Nairobi on January 6, from which the best prospects were to have been selected for a three-month training camp. Coaching was to have been under Alan Storey, the British Amateur Athletic Board's former national marathon coach.

"At the New York Marathon in November, I was assured by Kenya's general secretary, the Kenya A.A. and Mike Boit, the Kenyan commissioner for sport, that all necessary permission had been obtained," McDonald said. "A permit had been issued by the ministry on December 7, but they suddenly withdrew their permission without giving any reason."

The likelihood of McDonald continuing with his plan to set up the first international permit track and field meeting in Kenya has receded. "I will have to think long and hard before getting involved in other events in Kenya," he said.

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# THE TIMES

## SPORT

● JUMBO CROSSWORD 22  
● RUGBY UNION 23  
● FOOTBALL 26, 27

### Arsenal settle for moral victory

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Aston Villa 0  
Arsenal 0

ARSENAL created a club record yesterday but lost further ground on the leaders. In spite of surpassing their previous best start of 17 games without defeat in 1947, a season which they finished as the champions, they now lie six points behind Liverpool who have a game in hand.

The size of the gap might appear to be dispiriting but Arsenal keep responding to disheartening events. Shortly after suffering their worst home defeat for 69 years at the hands of Manchester United, for instance, they dismantled Liverpool 3-0, a result which could yet carry heavy significance.

Their immediate reaction to the potentially worrying loss of Tony Adams, their inspirational leader, who will be unavailable for at least four months, was almost as convincing. Had they completed one of several promising attacks they would have become the first visitors this season to win at Villa Park.

Andy Linighan, a £1.3 million acquisition from Norwich City, was brought in to fill the vacancy and, although his distribution was either tentative or wayward, he was otherwise as efficient as the rest of George Graham's unit.

"You would never have thought that that was his debut, would you?" his manager asked.

Aston Villa were limited to three genuine openings and one of those was inadvertently forced by a deflection off the referee.

"It was a good team performance," Graham said. "We dominated the game and we played like the home side. The only thing that was lacking was the finishing touch."

Alan Smith, who has been in such prolific form of late, was the most guilty party. He was denied early in the first half by Nigel Spink, the Villa goalkeeper, who was voted the man of the match, and early in the second half by his own inaccuracy.

Graham felt aggrieved that Arsenal were not awarded a penalty in the 67th minute when Perry Groves appeared to be brought down by Andy Comyn. The challenge was unquestionably clumsy and ill timed but even a slow motion replay on television failed to provide convincing evidence that the young Villa defender should have been punished.

Arsenal, captained by Paul Davis, should not have required official assistance anyway. But for the outstanding contribution of Paul McGrath, who never lost concentration as he patrolled at the back, and the equally alert Spink, they would have finished with a more substantial reward than a moral victory.



Held at a distance: Paul McGrath (left) is kept at arm's length by Perry Groves as the Arsenal forward bears down on the Aston Villa goal

#### First division leaders

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	17	14	2	1	37	14	44
Arsenal	18	11	7	0	33	9	39
Chelsea	18	10	6	2	28	17	36
Tottenham	18	9	6	3	33	20	33
Leeds United	18	9	6	3	29	17	33

\*2pts deducted

Nevertheless, Graham had few complaints. "If anybody had told me in August that we would be going into Christmas undefeated, I would have laughed. We have had a few problems but we keep bouncing back. The spirit, which is essential for any club which wants to challenge for the title, is excellent."

He explained that his curious decision to replace the enterprising Anders Limpar with David Rocastle, who has long been out of favour, was based on uncharacteristically sentimental grounds as well as for tactical reasons.

"We were losing shape up front and I thought I would give Rocastle a chance to blossom again."

Villa have never been a force since they were knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Internazionale and Gordon Cowans, the central cog in their wheel, was especially subdued.

Unusually, he was not responsible for any of the chances they created. Instead, the designers were Ian Ormondroyd and Tony Daley.

The leaden-footed Tony Casciaro scorned the first and the gangly Ormondroyd the second. The third, in the closing minutes, was almost decisive but David Platt, having thrust himself typically into the area, was blocked by David Seaman. Arsenal's defence was evident only too late.

ASTON VILLA: N. Spink, C. Price, S. Gray, P. McGrath, A. Comyn, K. Nelson, A. Daley, D. Platt, I. Ormondroyd, G. Cowans, A. Casciaro.

ARSENAL: D. Seaman, I. Dixon, N. Winterburn, M. Thomas, S. Bould, A. Linighan, P. Groves, P. Davis, A. Smith, P. McGrath, A. Limpar (sub: D. Rocastle).

Referee: N. Midgley.

#### MATCH FACTS

At Villa Park. Att: 22,667. Ref: N. Midgley.  
HT: 0-0. ASTON VILLA 0 ARSENAL 0  
Scoreline: -  
Cautions: -  
Subs: -

	ASTON VILLA	ARSENAL
Shots (on target/total)	3/8	4/9
Goals (left/right)	1/3	4/3
Crosses (left/right)	14/8	6/12
Free kicks/pens conceded	6/-	6/-
Cautions/sendings off	-/-	-/-
Offsides	-	5
Possession (gained/lost)	40/102	46/94

	ASTON VILLA	ARSENAL
Goalkeepers	Spink	Seaman
Defenders	Gray, Nelson, Daley, Platt, Ormondroyd	Winterburn, Bould, Linighan, Groves, Davis, Smith, Heron, Limpar
Midfielders	Cowans, Casciaro	Rocastle, Ormondroyd, Limpar, Seaman, O'Leary
Forwards	McGrath, Price, Gray	Thomas, Bould, Platt, Seaman, O'Leary

© Compiled by Julian Dobson.

### A record number of dismissals

THE total of 15 dismissals off, with four yesterday following 11 on Saturday, made the weekend the worst for discipline in the Football League's 102-year history.

John Kay, the Sunderland defender, became the fifth first division player to be sent off in two days when he was dismissed in the 1-0 defeat at home to Leeds United yesterday while three players were shown the red card in the space of 90 seconds in the goalless second division match between Leicester City and Watford.

Leicester's Paul Ramsey and David Byrne, of Watford, were dismissed for fighting and Keith Dublin, the Watford defender, followed shortly for comments made to the Leicester bench.

The previous highest number of dismissals in a single League programme was 13 on December 14, 1985 and the last instance of sendings-off reaching double figures on one day was on January 28, 1989, when 10 players were dismissed.

This season's total of players sent off has now reached 105: 81 in the League, 16 in the Rumbelows League Cup, 4 in the FA Cup and 4 in the Leyland Daf Cup. This time last year, the total was 89 - 68 League, 15 Littlewoods Cup, 1 FA Cup and 5 Zenith Data Systems Cup dismissals. The total number of sendings off last season was 189 - 162 League, 19 Littlewoods Cup, 2 FA Cup, 5 Zenith Data Systems Cup and 1 Leyland Daf Cup.

The worst season for sendings off was 1982-83, when 242 players were dismissed - 211 in the League, 19 in the FA Cup and 12 League Cup.

Weekend dismissals  
FIRST DIVISION: N. Spink (Tottenham), P. McGrath (Aston Villa), P. Groves (Aston Villa), K. Nelson (Aston Villa), A. Casciaro (Aston Villa), I. Ormondroyd (Aston Villa), G. Cowans (Aston Villa), A. Smith (Aston Villa), P. Davis (Aston Villa), A. Limpar (Aston Villa), D. Rocastle (Aston Villa), D. Seaman (Arsenal), I. Dixon (Arsenal), N. Winterburn (Arsenal), M. Thomas (Arsenal), S. Bould (Arsenal), A. Linighan (Arsenal), P. Groves (Arsenal), P. Davis (Arsenal), A. Smith (Arsenal), P. McGrath (Arsenal), A. Limpar (Arsenal), D. Rocastle (Arsenal), D. Seaman (Arsenal), I. Dixon (Arsenal), N. Winterburn (Arsenal), M. Thomas (Arsenal), S. Bould (Arsenal), A. Linighan (Arsenal), P. Groves (Arsenal), P. Davis (Arsenal), A. Smith (Arsenal), P. McGrath (Arsenal), A. Limpar (Arsenal), D. Rocastle (Arsenal), D. Seaman (Arsenal), I. Dixon (Arsenal), N. Winterburn (Arsenal), M. Thomas (Arsenal), S. Bould (Arsenal), A. Linighan (Arsenal), P. Groves (Arsenal), P. Davis (Arsenal), A. 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